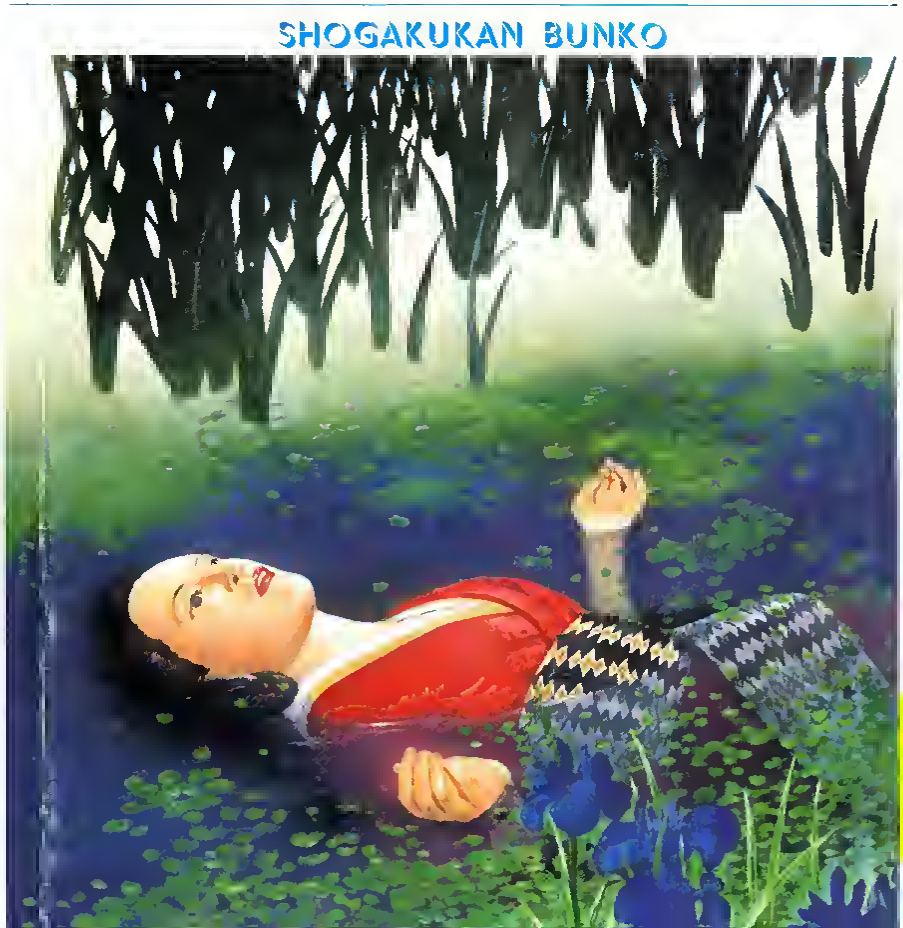
佐武と市捕物控 11

―菖　蒲―

石森章太郎



■頃は五月の菖蒲の池に、ぽつかり浮かんだ女の死体。背中に刺った金時が、吉原で話題の金時ねえさん。尻と肩とに刺り込まれた、二匹の熊は何のため。ふと口ばしった強がりと、男の見栄が女を死に追い込んだ。

■表題作の他、佐平治の死によって佐武が岡っ引きになる「てくるま」など五編収録。

デザイン　上井ヒロテル
カバー装画　角田純男

佐武と市捕物控 11
石森章太郎

281
小学館文庫
260

佐武と市捕物控

11

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第２巻＝晩い夏＝　￥330
第３巻＝芒＝　￥330
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第６巻＝花祭り＝　￥330
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第４巻＝￥330　（全４巻・完結）

佐武と市捕物控 11

═菖　蒲═

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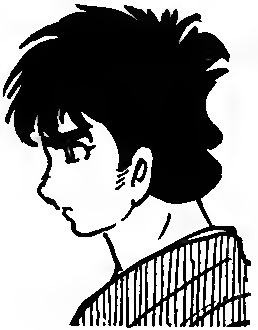
小学館文庫

Shogakukan Bunkos
Sabu and Ichi's
Detective Stories
Volume 11
By Shotaro Ishinomori



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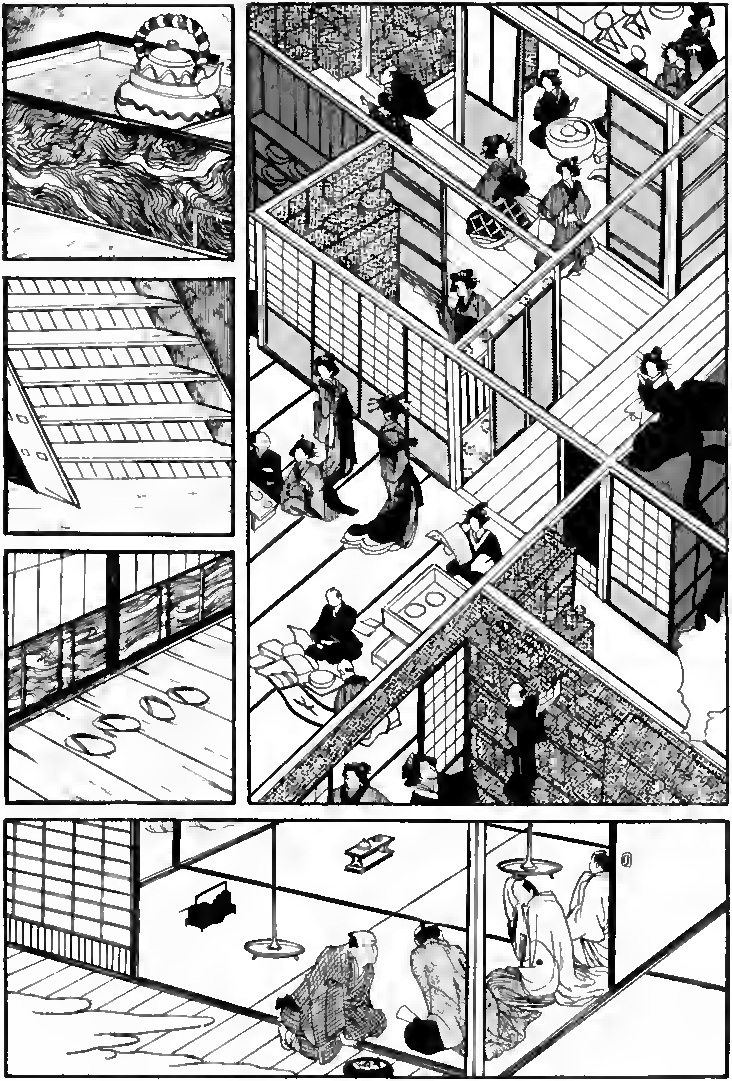
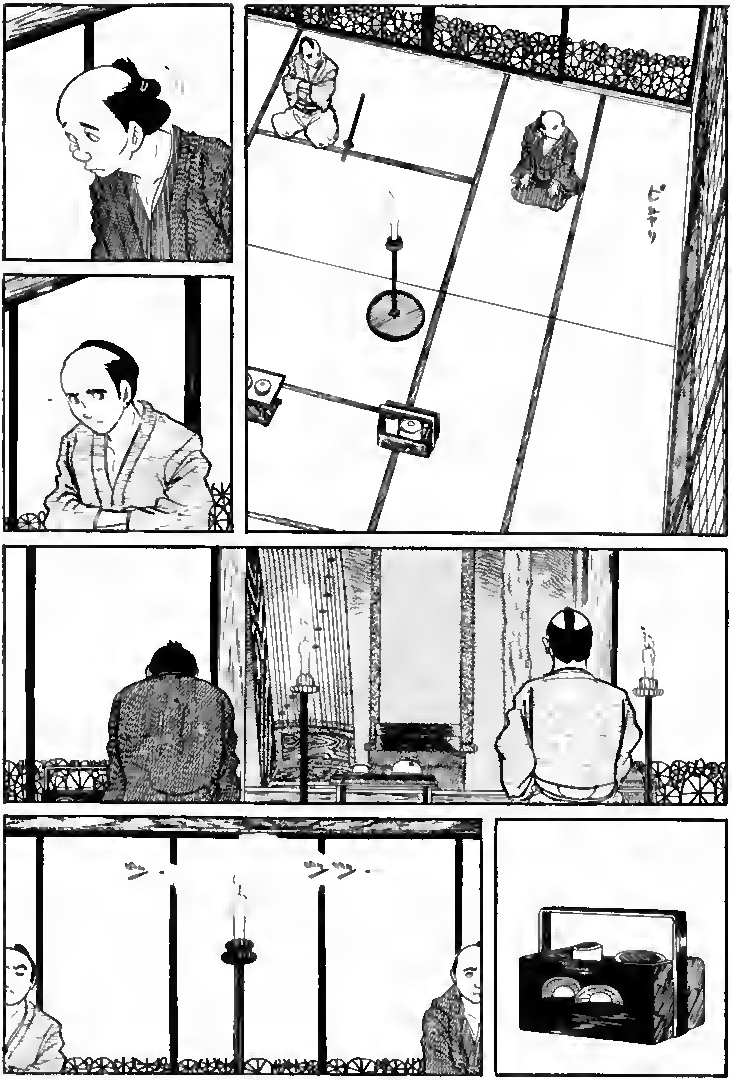
Sabu and Ichi's Detective Stories Volume 11 Contents

Chapter 64: Iris
Chapter 65: Hell's Gate
Chapter 66: Swallow Counter
Chapter 67: Storm
Chapter 68: Cricket
Chapter 69: Yo-yo

Cover Illustration by Gen'ichi Takise

Chapter 64: Iris




ピキリ

.. Pardon me..
For keeping you waiting so long...
Sorry.. Hehehe
not possible!?
So it's...
but there's a slight problem
Heh Yes, ...!
You both have your eyes set on Miss Kinboki.
Yes, the truth is...
Heh hehe..

Eh!?
Huh!?
I, Gyutaro, am utterly flabbergasted!
Well, I say, Hehe he..
I gathered up all of the money I have available!
I absolutely must be introduced to Miss .. Kintoki!
I-I have... three ryo right here!
Please!!
I just need to see her and speak with her!
.. but in that case..
I . c-couldn't gather up quite as much money
A-As must I!
Hehe..
Don't get so stressed out...
Big Bro and Mr. Samurai..
Now, now, now, now,
you should've heard rumors of her ..iong before you entered the gates of Yoshiwara.
..If you two.. are so infatuated with Miss Kintoki,
Are you sure about this? Hehe he..

Hehe .. She is very truly the "princess of prostitutes" .. and "wrestling with Kintoki will get you killed"
That ain't a fable at all.
"Kintoki's pillow is an uncomportable moneybox."
"Kintoki is very aptly written as 'money' and 'time'."
Kintoki is just the prostitute the rumors say she is.
We can't leave without seeing her!
that she won't even waste time with customers she doesn't take a liking to.
On top of that,
she's saved up so much money ..
We absolutely must see her!
gut,
W-We know.
It's like the motion-sundering battle of Sekigahara... It's a matter of life and ..
death!!
...But...
You'll need a lot of money to hear her moans.
Heh, hehe he ..

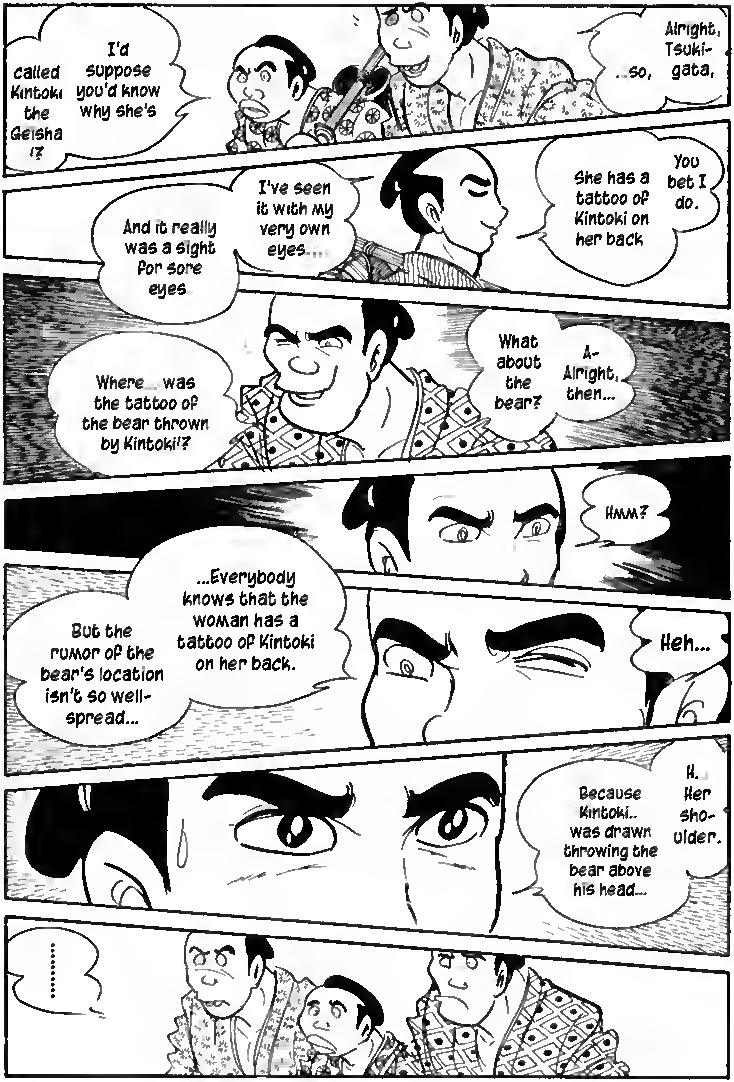
Why... don't you go see her!?
Heh, but we'll have to wait and see.
It's not impossible!
You could be given a chance to part with Kintoki in the morning, more valuable than the nation itself, for not even a single mon.
"Tis better to spend a morning after with Kintoki then a morning in the court."
But if she likes you,
You'll let us see her!?
S-So..
H-
Huh?
You really made me break a bone for this!!
Well, I must say..
but remember, this is only for now...
You two were so earnest about it,
Hehe he..
...
S-Sorry..!!
チャリン
See, look.. It's broken...
Well, let's get this over with.
チャラ チャラ
Heh... hehe..
チャリ
チャリ

..Hehe..

I will grant you the right to speak.
but... while I doubt will want to share my bed with either of you...
I've been told you went to great lengths just to see me.
...Truth is...
T-That's exactly right.
G..Go ahead... Samurai
In a pointless rivalry of backbone
But I ended up lying to my friends..
...I'm ashamed to admit..
T-Truth is ..
.. that I have already "turned you around" and that we are "intimate" now...
I had told them

Fweh, Fweh, Fweh...
Man, that takes me back. That woman's screams of pleasure... were the best in the nation!
...And that's the most sensitive part of a woman's body...
Hehe he...
Guess there are some pretty erotic books!
By the way, Tsukigata...
I've heard rumors that you've never experienced the pleasures of a woman...
But that's just not possible for a mature man like you
No, I think the rumors are true. After all, Tsukigata feels more lust for a book than for a woman
.....
Fhya hyahya...
...Kintoki!

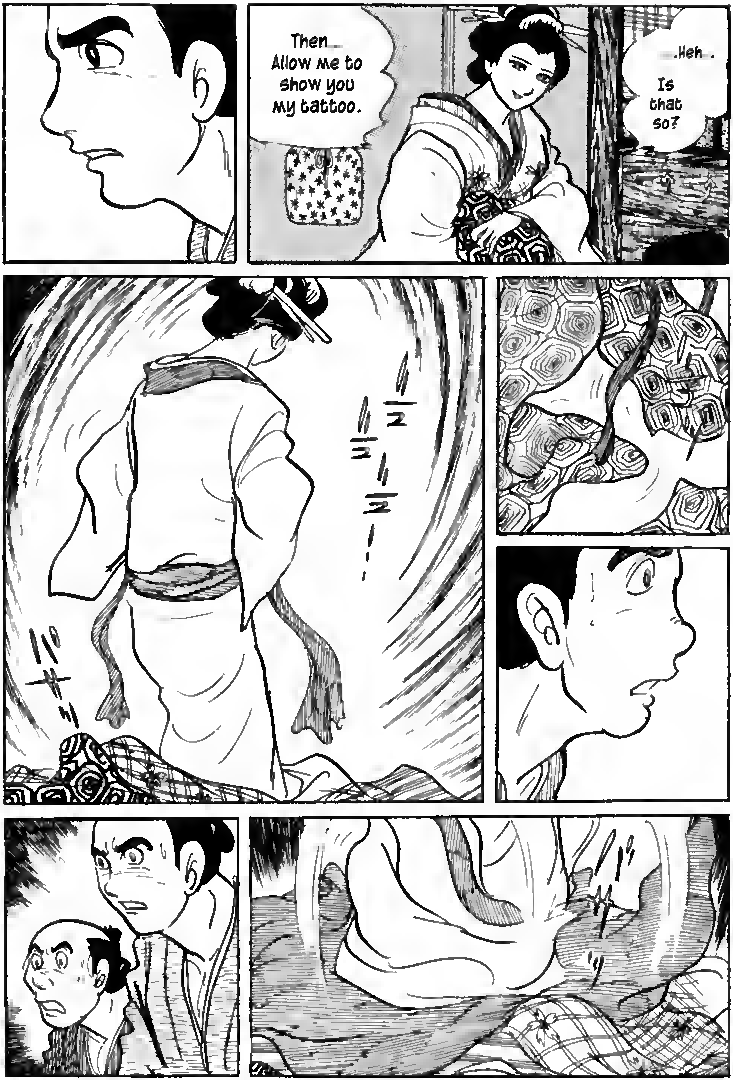
What!?
Oh, nothing.
She's just a woman of Yoshiwara who made me a man... and whom I'm still intimate with
Hmm!?
Now she's a woman among women!
Heheh... Didn't you know?
That woman isn't someone who would waste her time with us second sons of underlings!
Hey, if you're gonna fib, at least make it much more convincing!
Pffft!
Kintoki the geisha!?
you don't have to believe me!
Well,
Still, you're not telling me..!
W-Well I did hear some rumor like that...
That woman... doesn't care about money if she likes the man...!

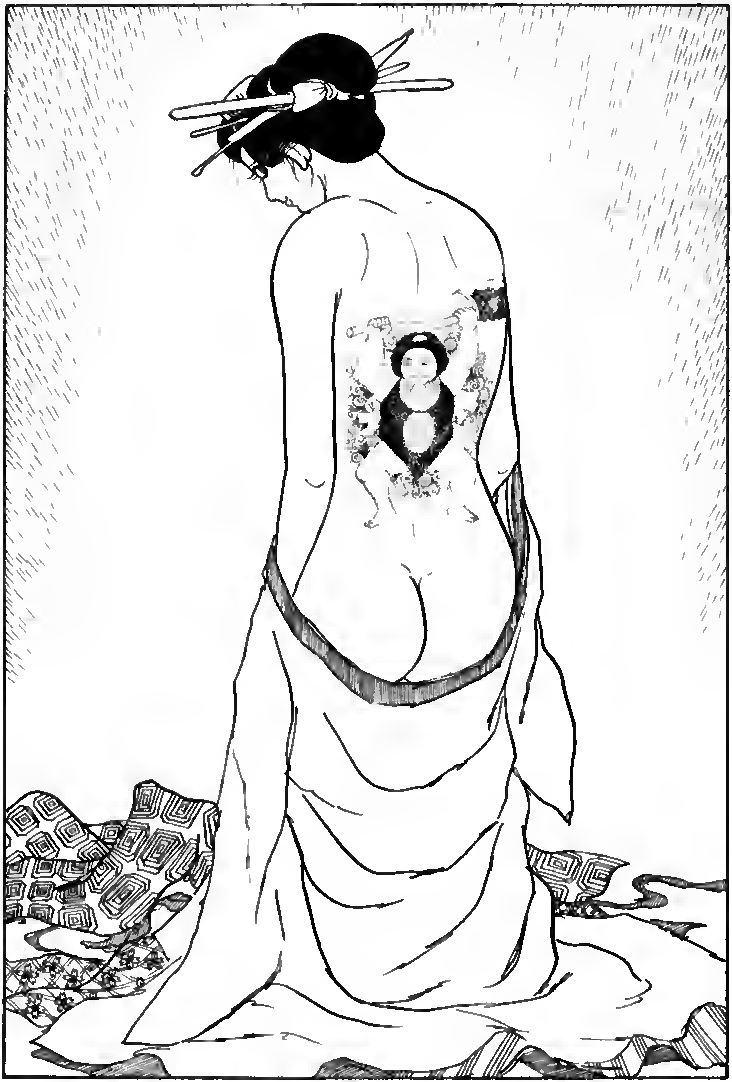

Alright, Tsuki-gata,
...so,
I'd suppose you'd know why she's called Kintoki the Geisha if?
You bet I do.
She has a tattoo of Kintoki on her back
I've seen it with my very own eyes....
And it really was a sight for sore eyes
A-Alright, then...
What about the bear?
Where... was the tattoo of the bear thrown by Kintoki!?
Hmm?
Heh...
...Everybody knows that the woman has a tattoo of Kintoki on her back.
But the rumor of the bear's location isn't so well-spread...
H. Her sho-ulder.
Because Kintoki.. was drawn throwing the bear above his head...
.....

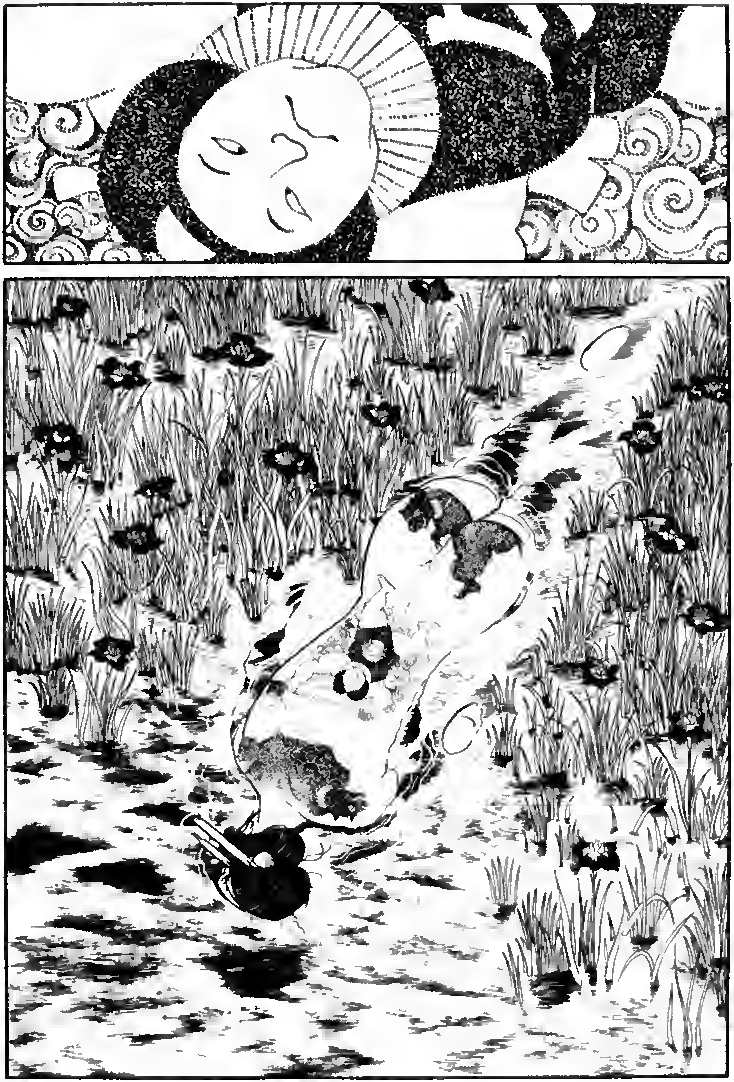
Why don't we do this?
Well?
That's gotta be a lie!
I don't believe it!
.....
and confirm it!!
and when I have enough money to buy Kintoki the Geisha, I'll pick a representative
I'll gather up some money
T-That's the very same thing that happened with me!
S-Same with me!
And that's what's happened
that I was intimate with Miss Kintoki!
I also told my friends

B-But in my case... I said the bear tattoo..
w-was on your buttocks..
...So my friends said they'd seve up enough money to confirm..
Oh?
My!
and we won't be able to face our friends again!!
That'll ruin our honor...
S-So if our friends come to confirm, and the bear is in the wrong place...
So I came with all the money I had saved up for when my term of service expired to ask you...
But there was nothing else to do...
We know it's a hard thing to ask..
We beg of you!
S-So before they do...

We have our pride as men...
a-and if it was known that we lied, we would have to commit suicide from the shame...
But you two have been stubborn over the silliest of matters.
But to us..
I-I'm sorry
Ho ho
I-It may sound preposterous to you...


Then... Allow me to show you my tattoo.
...Heh... Is that so?





...Miss Kintoki had a total of a mere three customers this year.
One was a young samurai and one was a young merchant.
And they both came the beginning of the month... on the same night, at the same time...
And the last one was a regular.

He would come once or twice a month, thrice at most.
...And he had shown himself the night before she was found dead.
.....
...And that's only reasonable.
As I investigated, I found that Kintoki was his sweetheart!
Tamanoi's wife finally confessed!
The manager of Minoya gave up an entire money box to buy her out of bondage.
But for whatever reason...
. He did not take her out,
but paid her monthly "rent",
and left Kintoki there... and frequented her.

...I-I..
am a son-in-law of Minoya
...My wife said "Given your nature of business, the world may overlook you enjoying brothels, but I will not allow you to have a mistress!"
In truth.. I feel someone in the store has been bribed to keep an eye on me...
...And so... Even after I had paid for her freedom, I kept her there
It was last spring,
when I came to Tamanoi with some customers on the way back from flower-viewing, and met Kintoki...
..I'm ashamed to admit, but I fell for her after that one meeting...
..You may not believe me hearing this from my mouth...
K-Kintoki was truly .. e good woman.
She was cheerful, and gentle .. a womanly woman!!
S-So who would do such e thing to her..!?
.....

W-Who would do it... and why!?
As a geisha, she did not need a ticket (a prostitute's pass for the gate) to go through the gate.
Miss Kintoki...
had gone outside the gates of Yoshiwara that evening
And
she came back dead.
.....
Someone called for her and killed her, or...
She was such an astonishing woman!
because I reprimanded her about the bear tattoos...
Y-Yes, you're exactly right.
It was...
The night before, many people had heard you arguing with her...

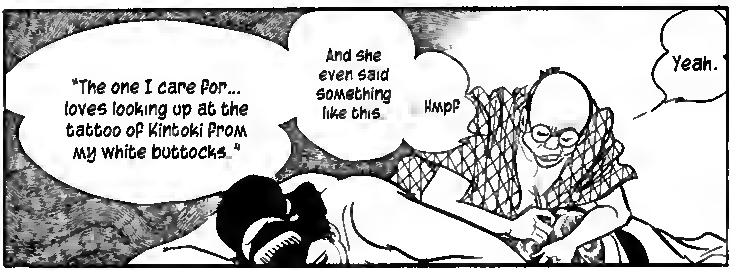
...H-how could this be...!?
There aren't any bears on her back...!
But... rest assured.
If those people do come, I will ensure that your lies are not discovered.

I didn't have the courage...
to say it was a lie.

...Yes, that's right.
When I said that I was intimate with Kintoki,
that was a lie!!
...I...I really haven't known a woman yet
Much less been intimate with Kintoki!

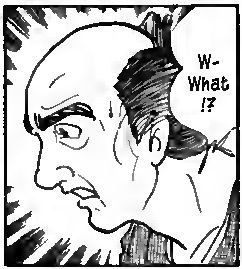
.....
She was so kind and consider-ate. .!!
to show me what true courage is!!
A-And that woman... Kin-toki gave her own self...
A-And yet those tat-toos ended up being for nothing!
to protect our "man-hoods".
.. She added two "bears"
.....
I was against it from the start...
...Yes,
.. All because of our worth-less pride!

She had to have them done... She said that this was her battle...!
...But she would just not listen.
Tattooing bears there... Two of them, at that ..
would ruin the design of the tattoo!
Battle!?


"The one I care for... loves looking up at the tattoo of Kintoki from my white buttocks."
And she even said something like this
Hmpf
Yeah.

W-Why have you done this..!?
Y-You knew that I...
have been looking forward to gazing upon your tattoo from here!!
B-But now.. I cannot get in the mood to embrace your body!!
T-Then...
I suppose
that you lied to me, right!?

"Not, absolutely not just for your body!"
"I have fallen for your heart.
...You told me time and time again!


W-What!?

I suppose... that was a lie.
And you also said... "I don't want to stay in my house anymore.
"One of these days, I will leave my house.. and I will have a family with you somewhere." I suppose that...
was a lie, too!!
.....
...I... was at fault!!
I...
did not lie in what I said to her.
.. I had fallen for her beautiful figure and her heart.. Everything about the woman Kintoki...
...Of course I had fallen for her beautiful figure.
But her heart... Her strong yet gentle, fragile in many places, and womanly heart..
I had fallen for even more
And every-thing else... everything that makes up the woman Kintoki...
I loved.. from the bottom of my heart.

...I-If I were just a bit manlier...
If I just had the courage... this would not have happened!!
I threw her out!!
...But- But I lacked courage... so with empty words...

.....
Hey.
.....
Miss Kintoki...
and the manager of Minoya must have been in love from the bottom of their hearts...
So she made a wager.
But... this is the sad reality of women who live in such a place...

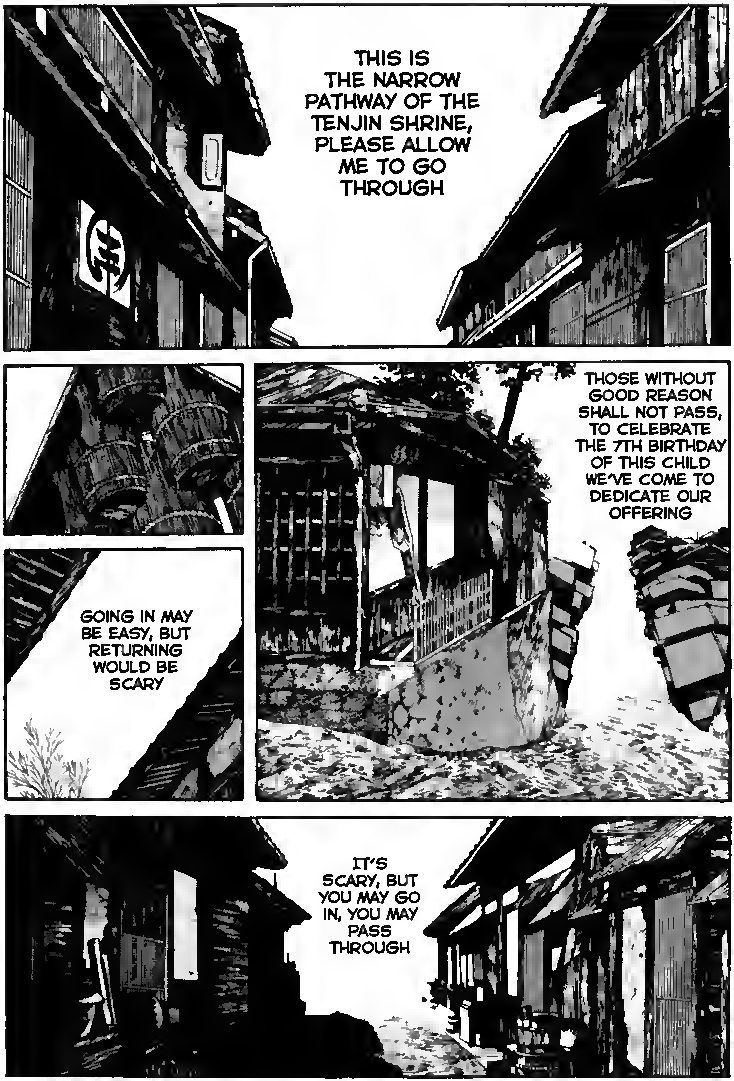
She had feelings of trust and doubt towards a man .. and impatience
And a sense of fatigue towards the world from knowing too many men ..
She tested her patron ..
They got in a fight ..
And leaving behind her characteristic "courage", a very rare trait in a woman,
as well as her gentleness and chivalry,
..She stripped naked in the lake of irises.. and stabbed herself in the throat...

May 10, 1971: "Iris" (FIN)

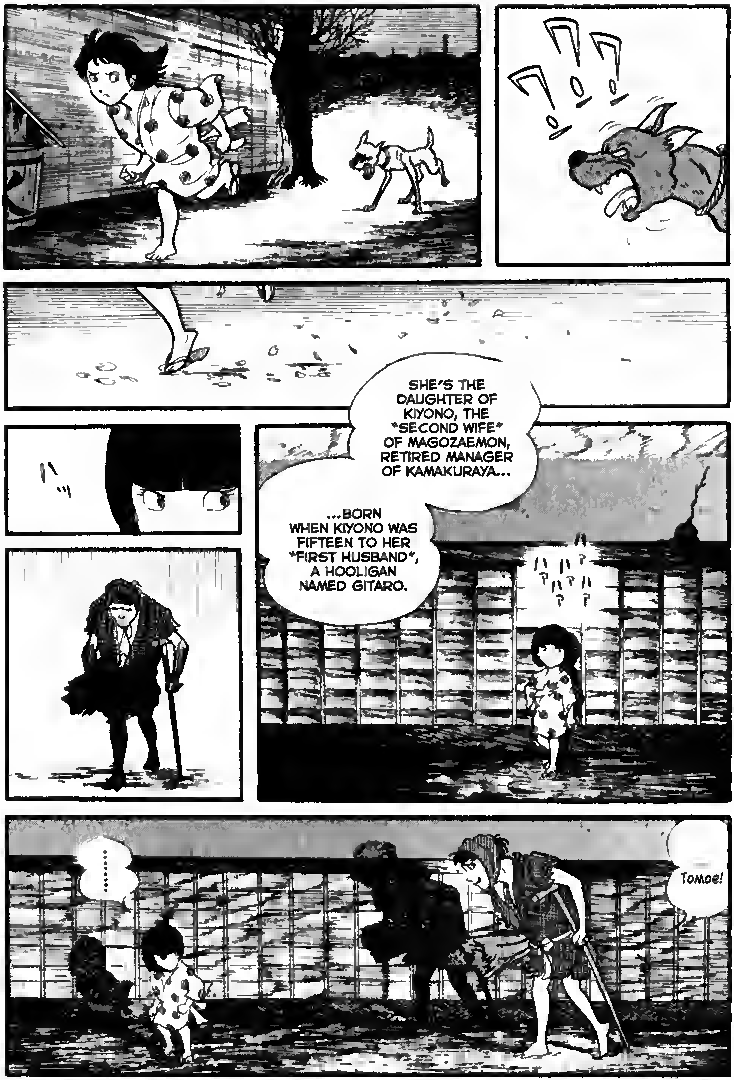
佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 64
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 65: Hell's Gate

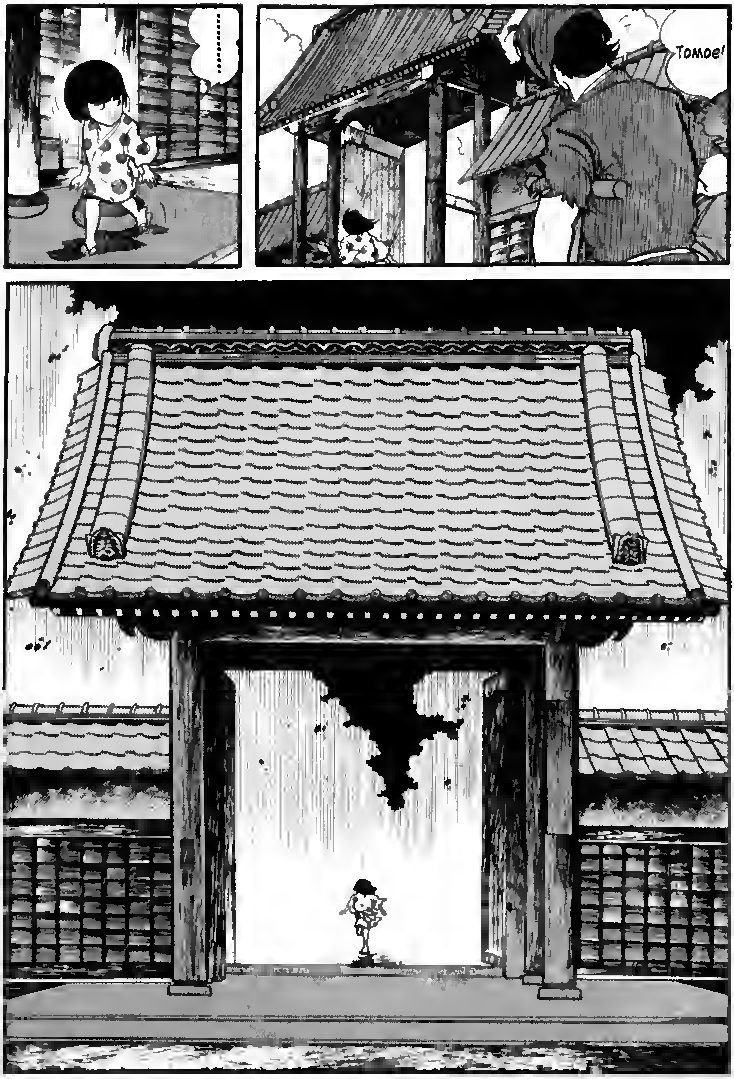
YOU MAY GO IN, YOU MAY ENTER, WHICH WAY IS THIS NARROW PATHWAY?

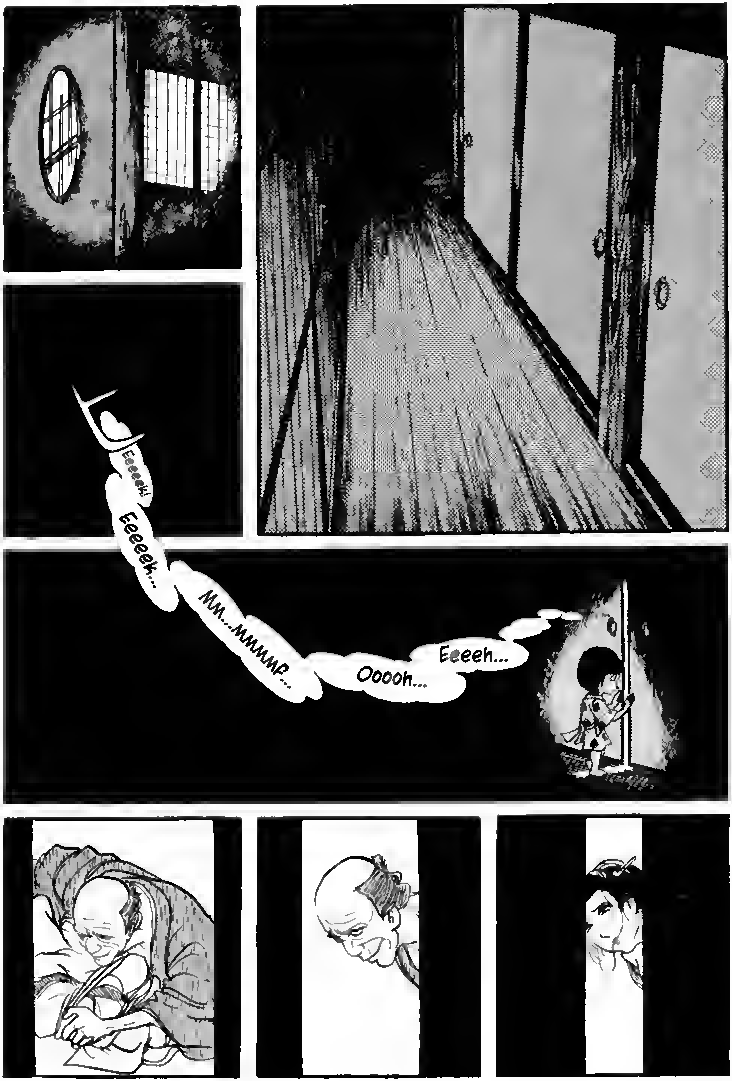

THIS IS THE NARROW PATHWAY OF THE TENJIN SHRINE, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO GO THROUGH
THOSE WITHOUT GOOD REASON SHALL NOT PASS, TO CELEBRATE THE 7TH BIRTHDAY OF THIS CHILD WE'VE COME TO DEDICATE OUR OFFERING
GOING IN MAY BE EASY, BUT RETURNING WOULD BE SCARY
IT'S SCARY, BUT YOU MAY GO IN, YOU MAY PASS THROUGH

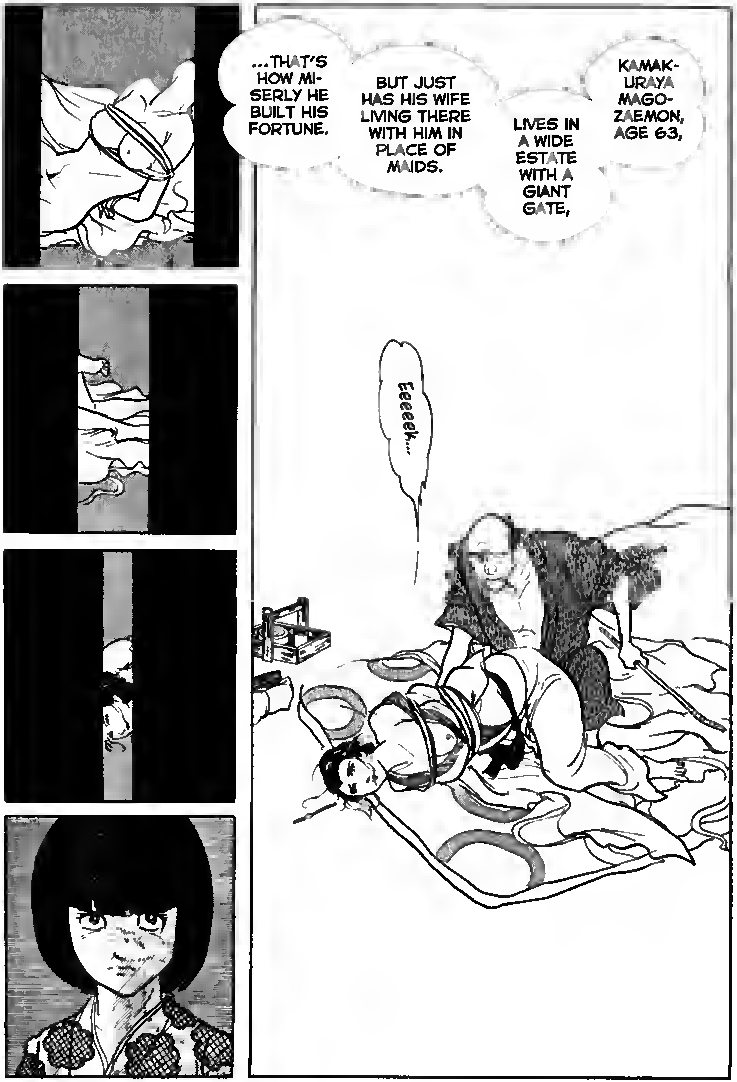
...
TOMOE,
AGE 5...


SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF KIYONO, THE "SECOND WIFE" OF MAGOZAEMON, RETIRED MANAGER OF KAMAKURAYA...
...BORN WHEN KIYONO WAS FIFTEEN TO HER "FIRST HUSBAND", A HOODLIGAN NAMED GITARO.
Tomoe!

Have you forgotten me?
Tomoe!
It's your father!!
I'm your father!
.....
You've gotten real big...
You're getting more and more beautiful... just like your mother
.....
Are you... happy?
Is... your new father kind to you?
...S-So how is she?
Is your mother well?
So... I'm really happy
Much more than I've ever felt before!!
Yeah, he's kind


Tomoe!

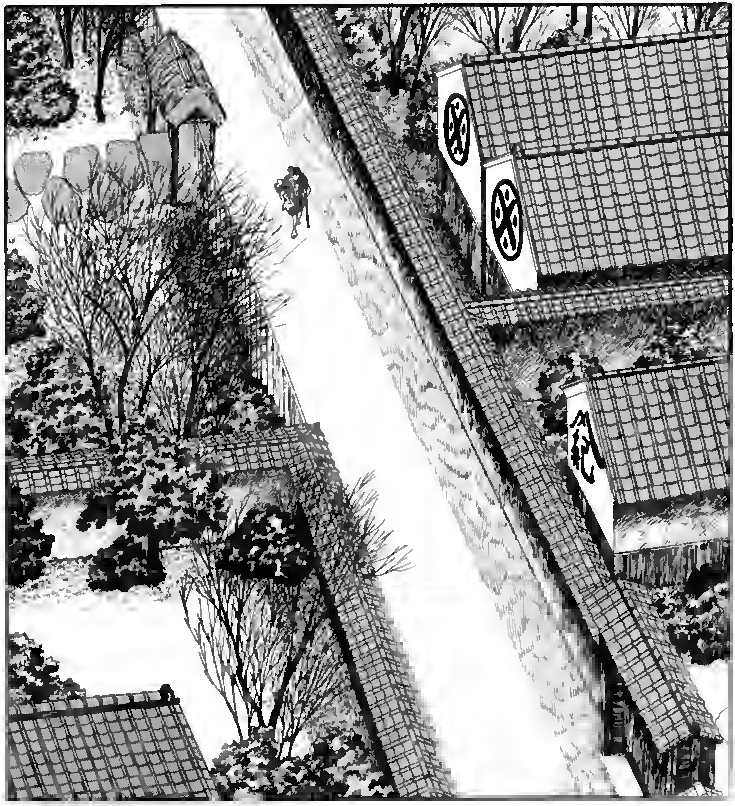

Eeeeek!
Eeeeek...
MM...MMMMP...
Ooooh...
Eeeeh...


...THAT'S HOW MISERLY HE BUILT HIS FORTUNE.
BUT JUST HAS HIS WIFE LIVING THERE WITH HIM IN PLACE OF MAIDS.
LIVES IN A WIDE ESTATE WITH A GIANT GATE,
KAMAKURAYA MAGOZAEMON, AGE 63,
Eeeeek...

THE WIFE, KIYONO, AGE 21,
IS A BEAUTY WITH A STRANGELY CORRUPTED SENSUALITY, BUT SHE'S STILL YOUNG ..
...SO IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE OLD MAN ALONE COULD NOT SATISFY HER

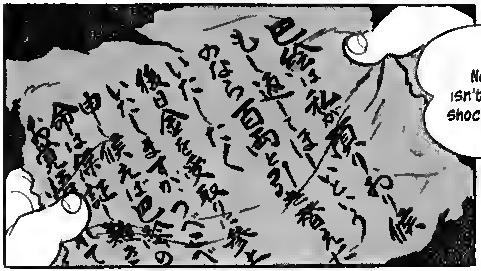
OF COURSE, HE'S BEEN MARRIED FOR A WHILE, BUT THE FRUITS OF INFIDELITY ARE EXCEPTIONAL.
HER LOVER IS THE YOUNG MASTER OF URASHIMAYA...

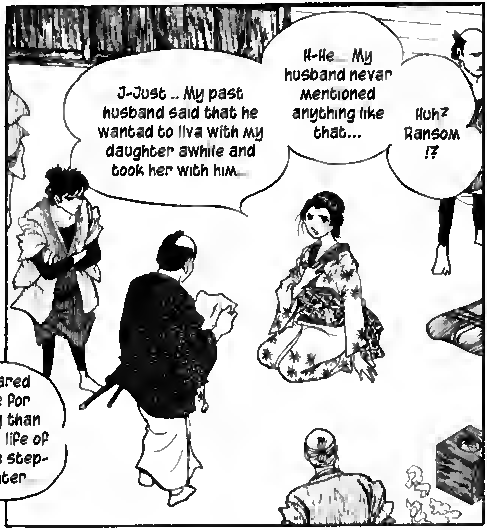
Welcome home

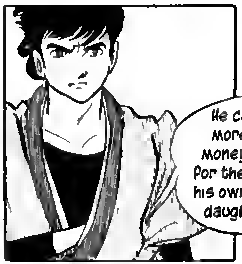


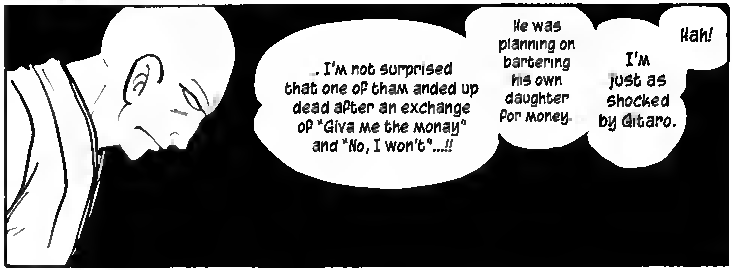
NOW, KIYONO'S CHILD TOMOE HAS GONE MISSING.
AND... MAGO-ZAEMON WAS MUR-DERED.

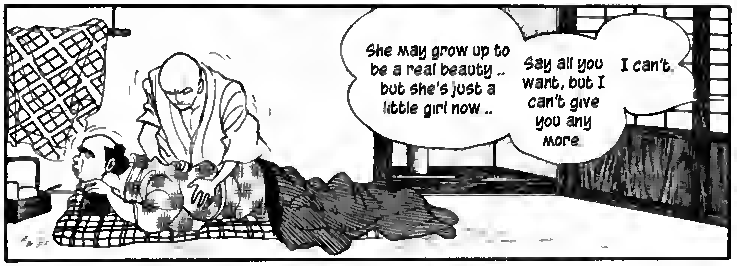
SIGN: I HAVE TOMOE. IF YOU WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN, I WILL GIVE HER BACK FOR A HUNDRED RYO. I WILL BE EXPECTING THE MONEY TOMORROW, BUT IF YOU MAKE ANY EXCUSES, I CANNOT GUARANTEE TOMOE'S LIFE. SO BE WELL PREPARED




J-Just .. My past husband said that he wantad to liva with my daughter awhile and took her with him...
H-He... My husband never mentioned anything like that...
Huh? Ransom !?




.. I'm not surprised that one of them ended up dead after an exchange of "Give me the money" and "No, I won't"...!!
He was planning on bartering his own daughter for money.
I'm just as shocked by Gitaro.
Hah!

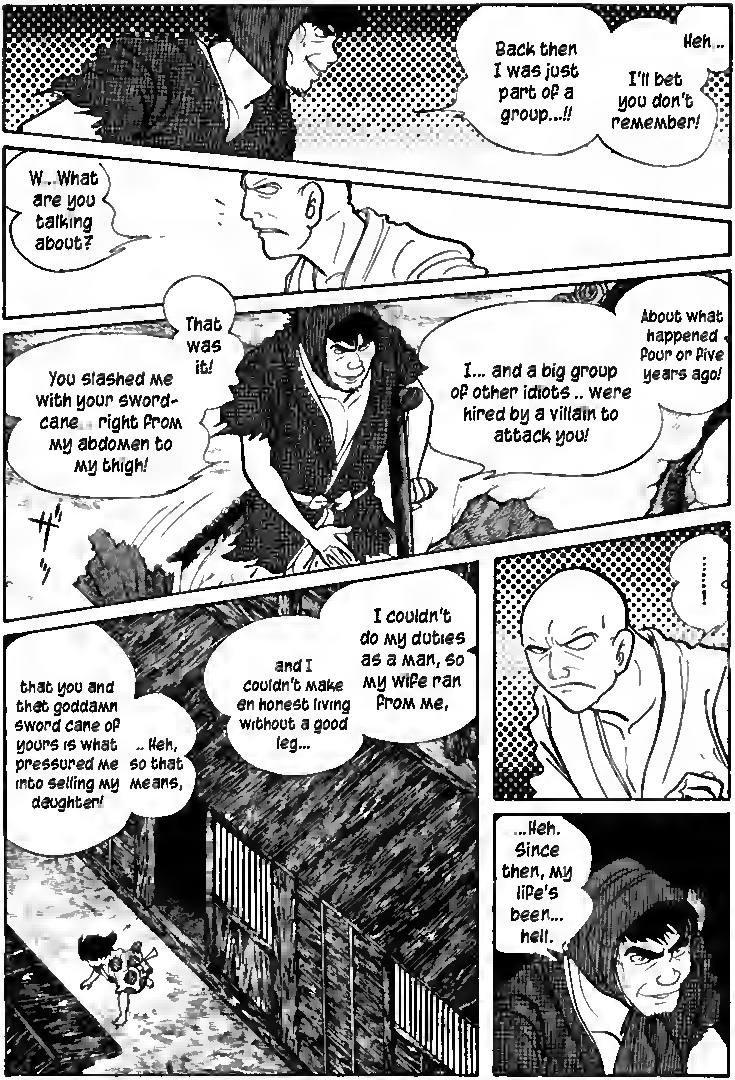

She may grow up to be a real beauty .. but she's just a little girl now ..
Say all you want, but I can't give you any more.
I can't.

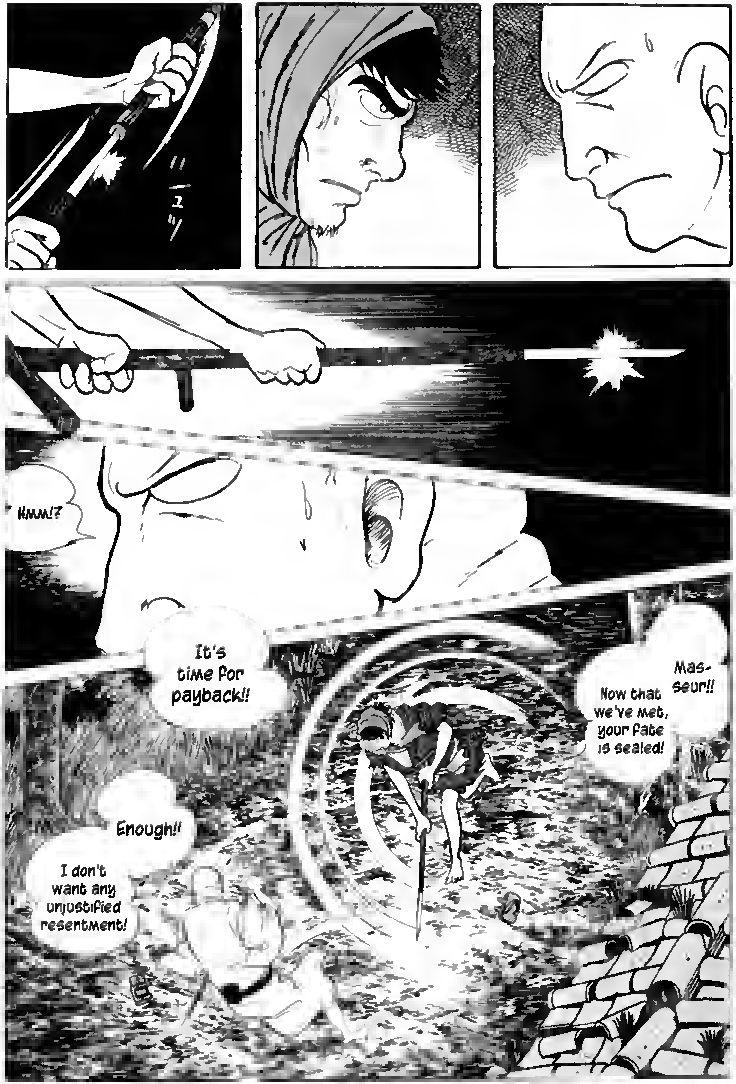
Let me be with you!
Please don't sell me, Daddy!
Don't sell me!
But Madam, you could treat her as a maid!
And I'm not generous enough to feed and clothe her until then.

I made my choice when I heard that!
And who was it ... who said they liked their current Father more than me!?
Kch. What the hell?
I want to live with you!
I...I love you, Daddy!
I'll do anything!
Ahhh!
Ow!
Ow, ow.. H-hey, that's too strong!
Shut up!
It's true! I want to live with you...
Really... Really... I love you so much more!
I'm sorry! T-That wasn't true!
I'm sorry.
Tomoe !?
I'll drop by from time to time to check on you!
you have to bear with it!
...Now listen, Tomoe,

H-Hey, you!
Where are you going!?
We're not done here yet!
Huh!?
You Mis-creant!!
Hold it.
How could a Father do such a thing!?
You sold your own helpless child off for a little money...
I heard every-thing!
W-Who are you!?

Hehe he...
Heh... he...
Heh...
You with your miscreant nature... murdered Magozaemon!!
And one more thing,
Hehehe... he...
To think that I'd run into you here!!
Now, this is turning out to be quite a tale of Patel!
...I hear
that you have remarkable ears...
.....
...and that you never forget anything you hear
...So do you remember me... and my voice ...!?
Huh ...!?

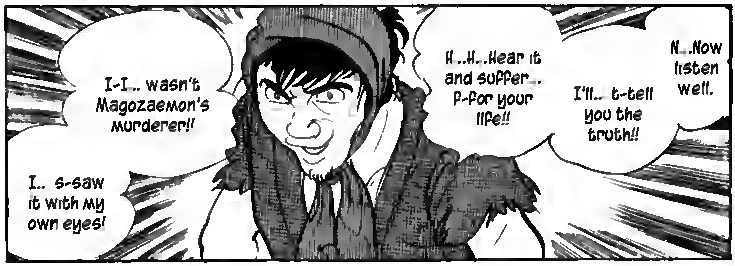

Heh..
I'll bet you don't remember!
Back then I was just part of a group...!!
W..What are you talking about?
About what happened four or five years ago!
I... and a big group of other idiots .. were hired by a villain to attack you!
That was it!
You slashed me with your sword-cane... right from my abdomen to my thigh!
.....
I couldn't do my duties as a man, so my wife ran from me,
and I couldn't make an honest living without a good leg...
.. Heh, so that means,
that you and that goddamn sword cane of yours is what pressured me into selling my daughter!
...Heh. Since then, my life's been... hell.


Hmm!?
It's time for payback!!
Mas-seur!!
Now that we've met, your fate is sealed!
Enough!!
I don't want any unjustified resentment!

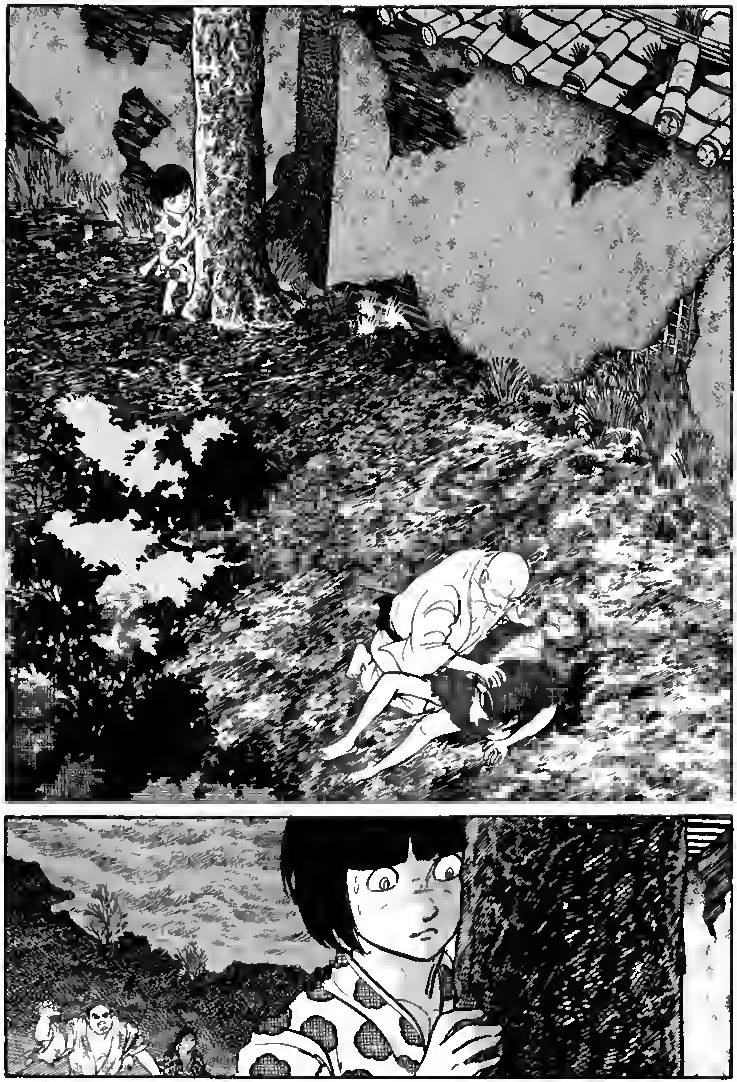
If you ask me, I'd say..
you reaped what you sowed!!
And...
For the sake of your daughter who loves you.. I don't..
want to kill you!!
Shut up!
J-Just draw!
E-Either way..
I'm going to prison for killing Magoza-emon!!
Even if you don't kill me..
Mmgh!!

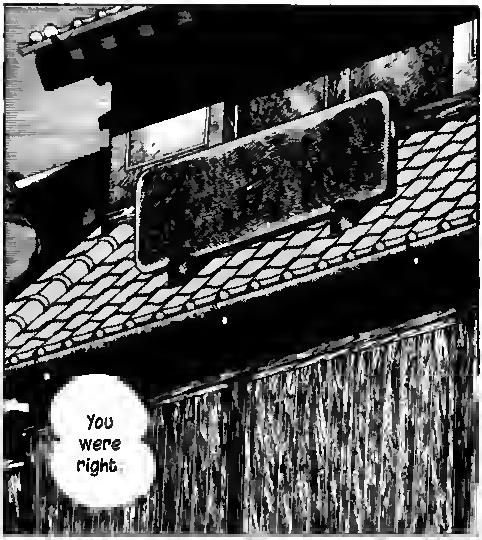
……

Y-You've finally done it!!
.. Heh, y... you've done it!

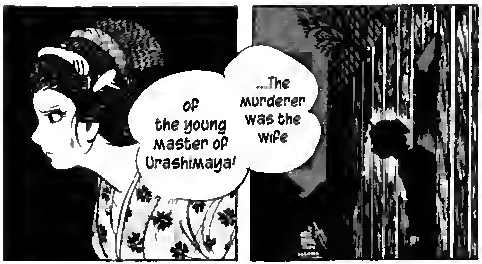

I-I... wasn't Magozaemon's murderer!!
I... s-saw it with my own eyes!
H...H...Hear it and suffer... P-For your life!!
I'll... t-tell you the truth!!
N...Now listen well.

W-What iz
The... real M...Murderer... is. Cough. Cough cough.



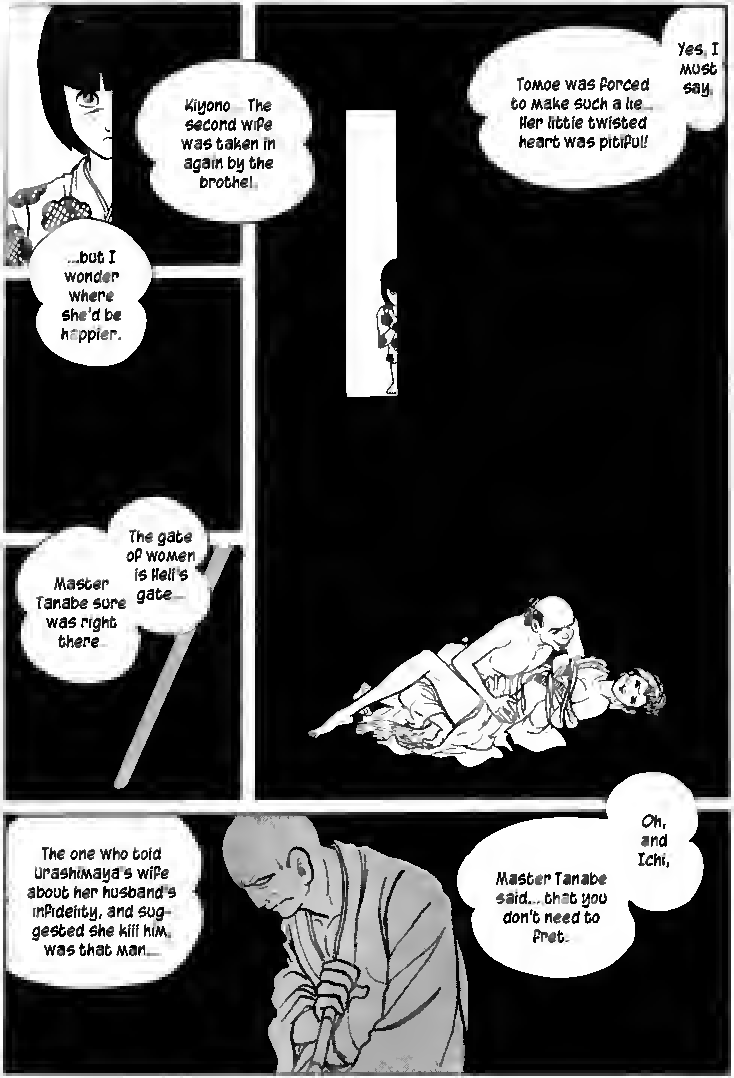

You were right.

W-h-a-t!?


...The murderer was the wife of the young master of Urashimaya!

She was jealous of the young master and Magozaemon's wife's affair...

but she ran into Magozaemon by chance... and stabbed him to death!
...so she was going to kill him.
and that's how it all began
He had snuck out to do so that night, but unluckily, he ran into Urashimaya's wife...
and had peeped in on them every time to see what was going on.
It would seem that Magoza-emon knew of his wife's infidelity.
...Based on how you think of it, it's an innocent yet pitiful... little lie of a poor loser.
...When Tomoe told her father Gibaro, who she thought had abandoned her and her mother, "I'm happy"...

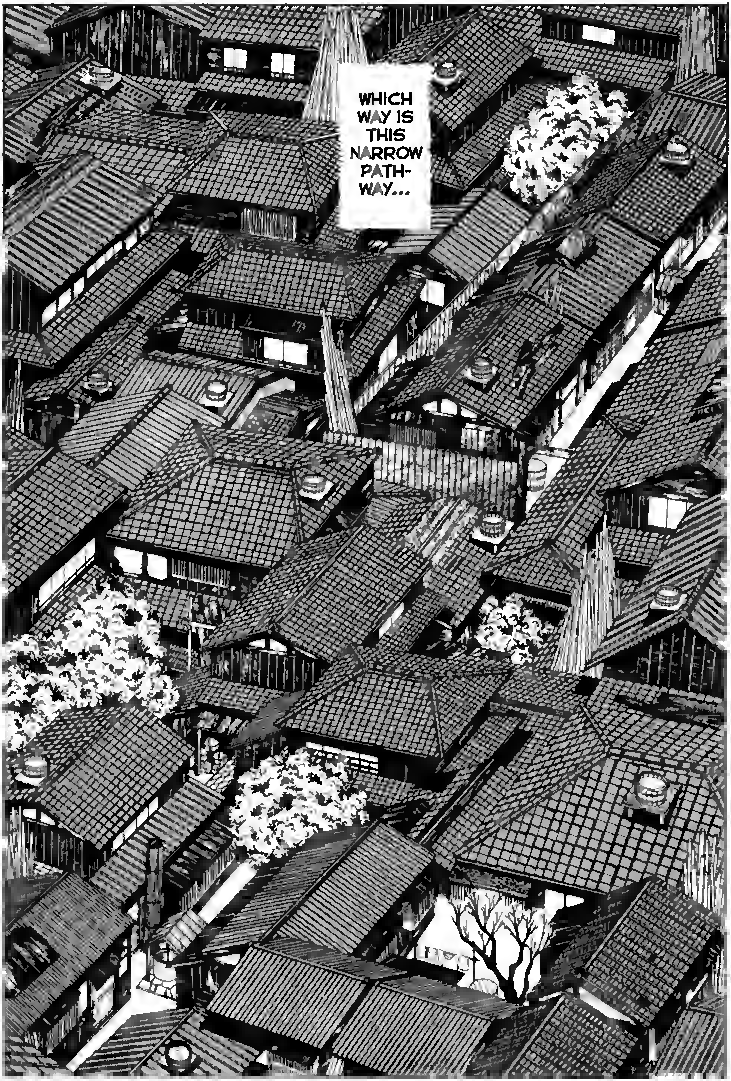

Kiyono The second wife was taken in again by the brothel.
...but I wonder where she'd be happier.
Tomoe was forced to make such a lie... Her little twisted heart was pitiful!
Yes, I must say.
The gate of women is Hell's gate...
Master Tanabe sure was right there.
The one who told Urashimaya's wife about her husband's infidelity, and suggested she kill him, was that man...
Master Tanabe said... that you don't need to fret.
Oh, and Ichi,

Tomoe!
The man you had no choice but to kill.
Ehehe
...Hey, will you play with me if I show you mine?
TOMOE, AGE FIVE...
MAGO-ZAEMON, RETIRED MANAGER OF KAMAKURAYA...
...Hell's Gate...!

Everyone.. has their own Hell. And they live looking at Hell through its gate.

YOU MAY GO IN, YOU MAY ENTER,

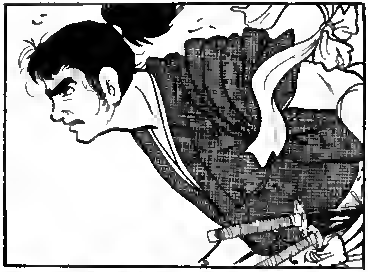
地獄門

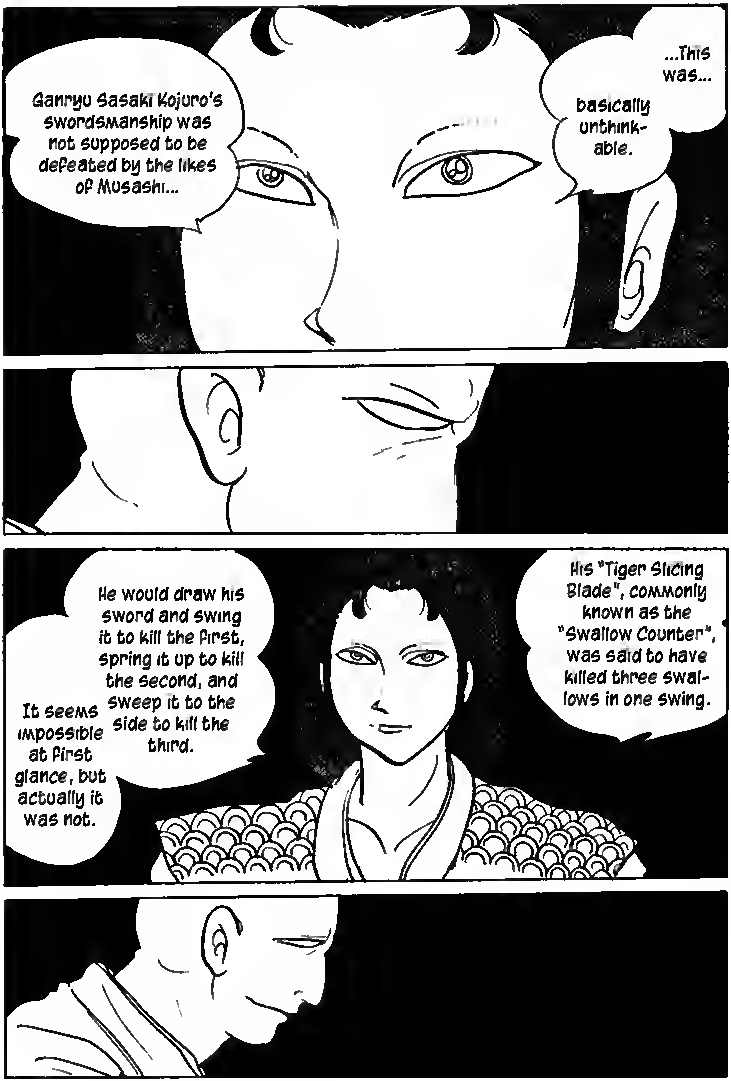


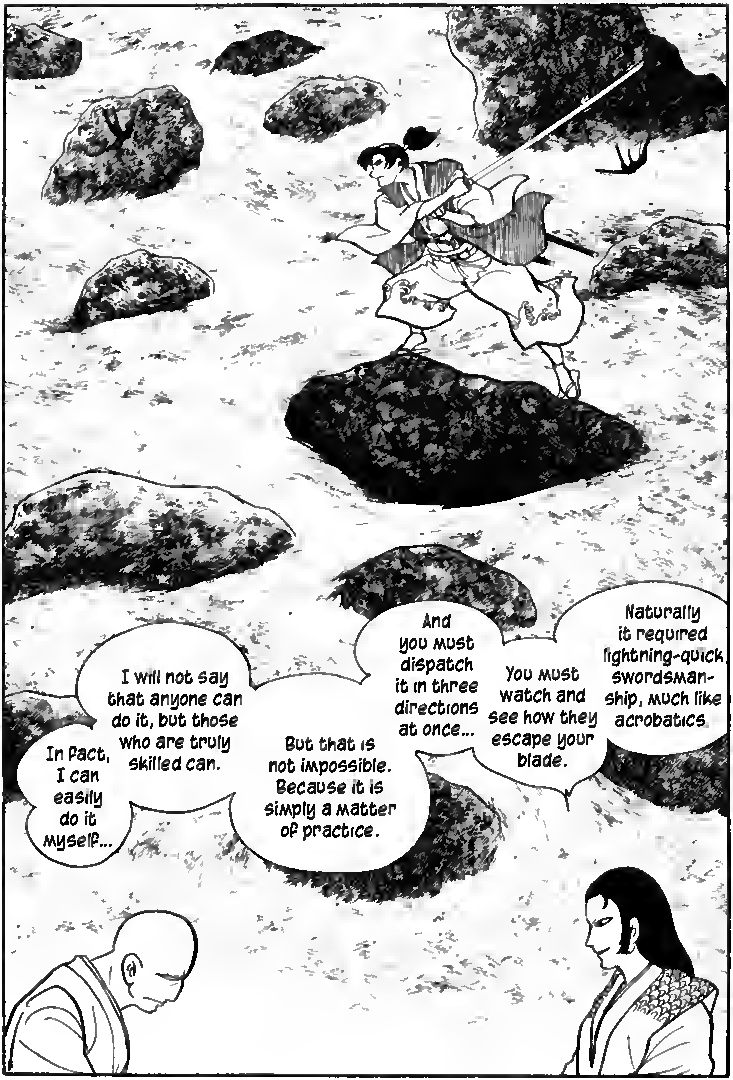
April 25, 1971: "Hell's Gate" (FIN)

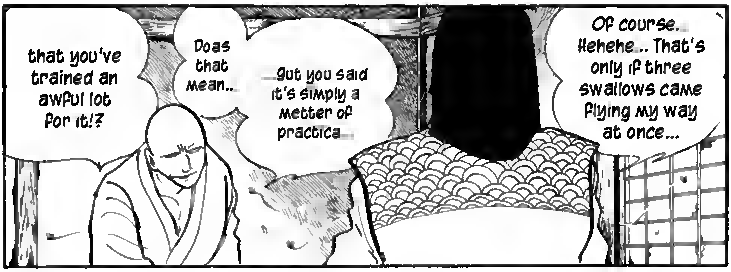
佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 65
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

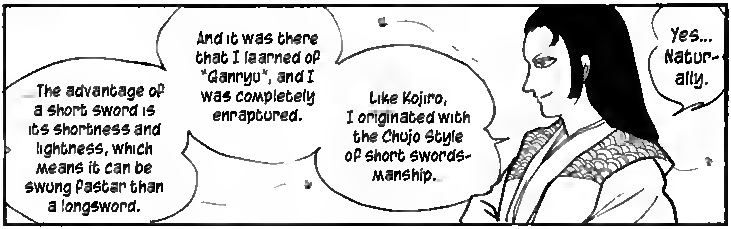
Chapter 66: Swallow Counter

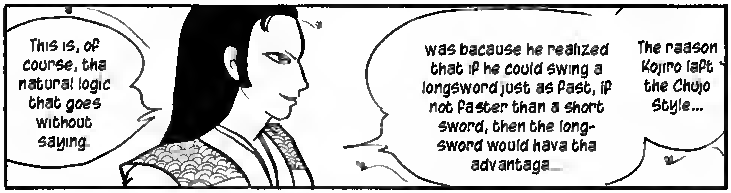


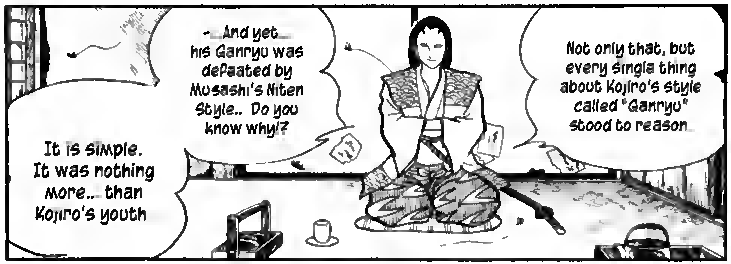

Ganryu Sasaki Kojuro's swordsmanship was not supposed to be defeated by the likes of Musashi...
...This was... basically unthinkable.
His "Tiger Slicing Blade", commonly known as the "Swallow Counter", was said to have killed three swallows in one swing.
He would draw his sword and swing it to kill the first, spring it up to kill the second, and sweep it to the side to kill the third.
It seems impossible at first glance, but actually it was not.

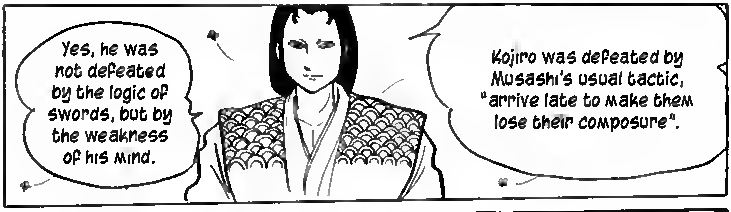

In fact, I can easily do it myself...
I will not say that anyone can do it, but those who are truly skilled can.
But that is not impossible. Because it is simply a matter of practice.
And you must dispatch it in three directions at once...
You must watch and see how they escape your blade.
Naturally it required lightning-quick swordsmanship, much like acrobatics.

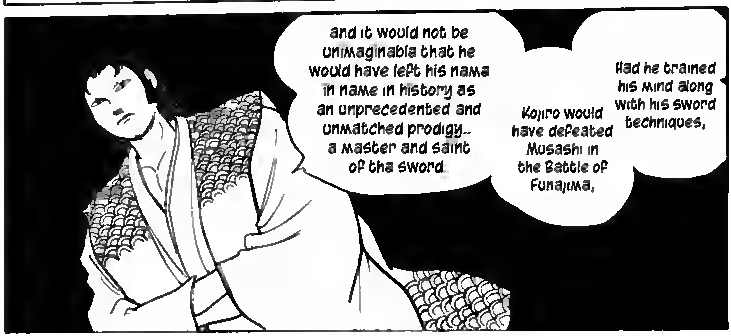

that you've trained an awful lot for it!?
Does that mean...
...but you said it's simply a matter of practice...
Of course. Hehehe... That's only if three swallows came flying my way at once...


The advantage of a short sword is its shortness and lightness, which means it can be swung faster than a longsword.
And it was there that I learned of "Ganryu", and I was completely enraptured.
Like Kojiro, I originated with the Chujo Style of short swords-manship.
Yes... Naturally.


This is, of course, the natural logic that goes without saying.
was because he realized that if he could swing a longsword just as fast, if not faster than a short sword, then the long-sword would have the advantage...
The reason Kojiro left the Chujo Style...

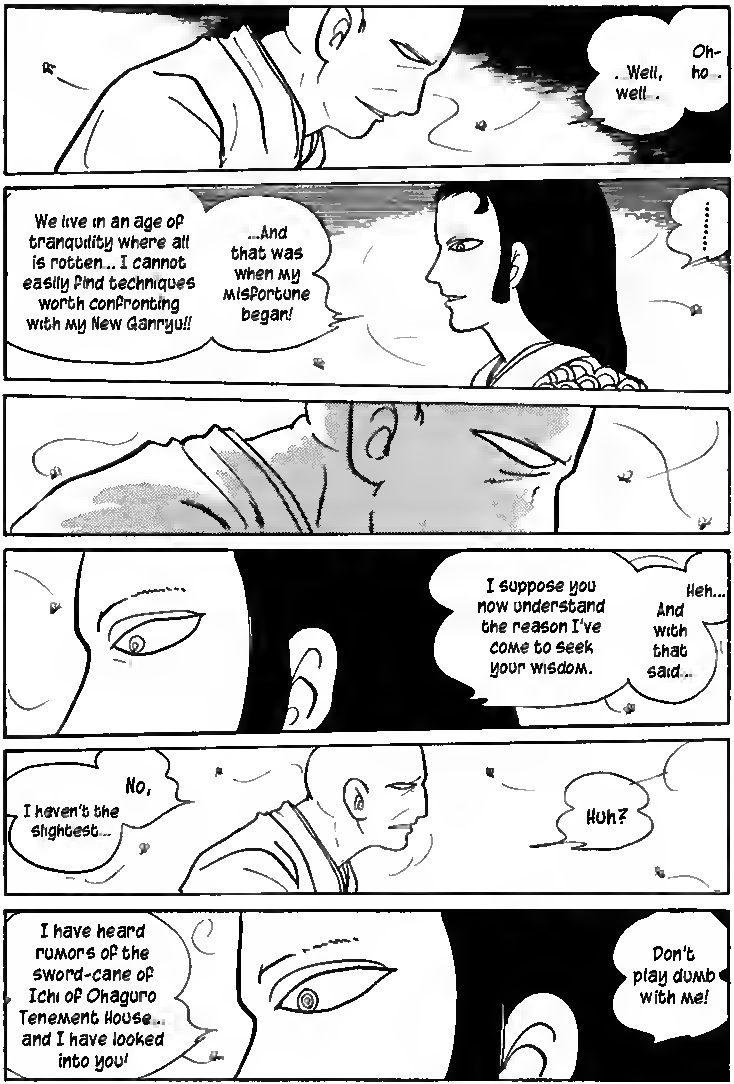

It is simple. It was nothing more... than Kojiro's youth
...And yet his Ganryu was defeated by Musashi's Niten Style... Do you know why!?
Not only that, but every single thing about Kojiro's style called "Ganryu" stood to reason.


Yes, he was not defeated by the logic of swords, but by the weakness of his mind.
Kojiro was defeated by Musashi's usual tactic, "arrive late to make them lose their composure".


and it would not be unimaginable that he would have left his name in name in history as an unprecedented and unmatched prodigy... a master and saint of the sword.
Kojiro would have defeated Musashi in the Battle of Funajima,
Had he trained his mind along with his sword techniques,

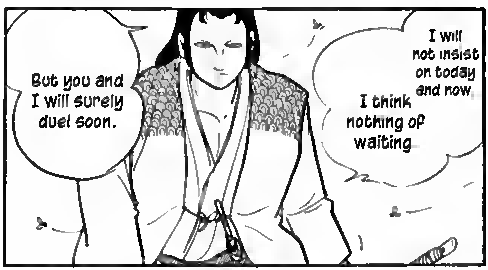
The rumors say there is only one master of Ganryu.. Ever since the prodigy Kojiro produced it, it has been an un-masterable style..
In that case... What if someone had the same talent as Kojiro, had mastered the same techniques, and had also trained his mind?

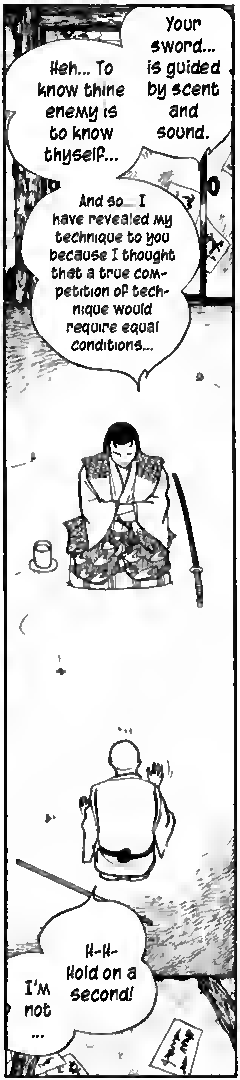
Through training my mind, I have added a new step to the reason and technique!
No.. I have done even greater!
And that is why I have challenged it.. and succeeded!!
I have completed a Ganryu that excels Ganryu.. A new Ganryu!!


Oh-ho...
..Well, well...
We live in an age of tranquility where all is rotten.. I cannot easily find techniques worth confronting with my New Ganryu!!
...And that was when my misfortune began!
.....
I suppose you now understand the reason I've come to seek your wisdom.
Heh... And with that said...
No, I haven't the slightest...
Huh?
I have heard rumors of the sword-cane of Ichi of Ohaguro Tenement House.. and I have looked into you!
Don't play dumb with me!

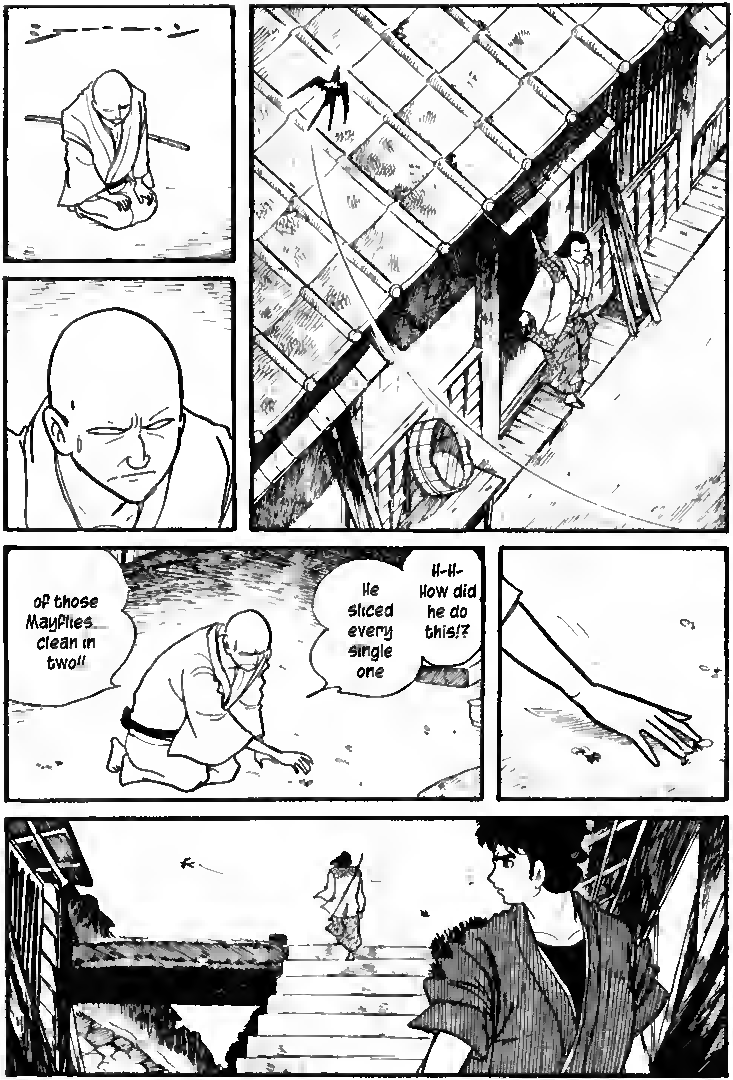
However.. To compete in itself should be reason enough to compete with me!
...Is that what you were about to say?
I know You are not a martial artist Your sword is for self-defense, not for assault. You will not fight without reason!
T-That's insane .

You must accept!!


But you and I will surely duel soon.
I think nothing of waiting
I will not insist on today and now

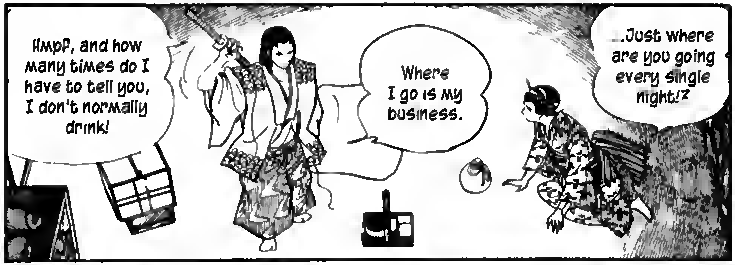

Your sword... is guided by scent and sound.
Heh... To know thine enemy is to know thyself...
And so... I have revealed my technique to you because I thought that a true competition of technique would require equal conditions...
H-H-Hold on a second!
I'M not ...

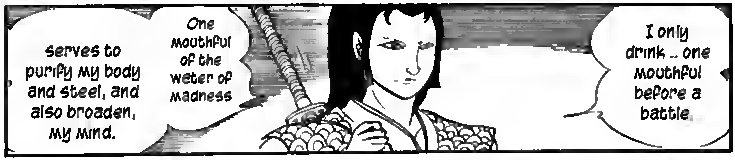
I will make it so!!
.....
...And now I must leave you... in anticipation of that day!


シーーーーン
H-H-How did he do this!?
He sliced every single one
of those Mayflies clean in two!!

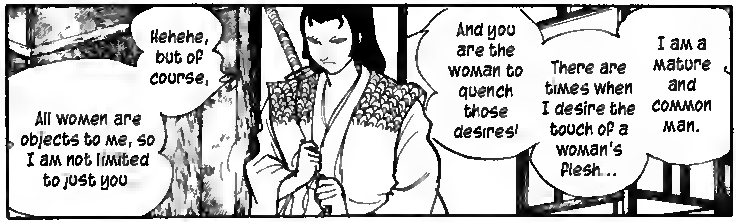
He was a strange one!
Hmm?
Oh, no one.
He came here, right? Hmm?
Who was that samurai?
Hey, Ichi
Huh?
...Of what?
Didn't you hear what was going on?
... Huh?
Really?
Ahhh, this is getting bad, this is getting bad.
I'm talking about the random slashers!
Five people were murdered last night!
Man, Tch, you're really late on the uptake this time.
I feel... like they're just a gang of penniless ronin.. but one of them seems to be incredibly skilled..
dead after the first stroke!
And two of those five were samurai. All of them were cut clean in two.

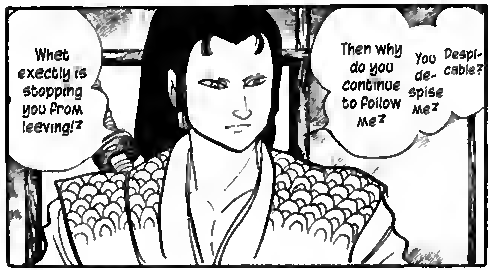
..Could it be !?
Huh ...!?
Are you... going out again tonight?
But why?
I was looking forward to getting the chance to drink with you.

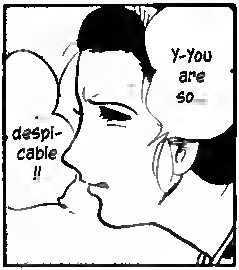

Hmpf, and how many times do I have to tell you, I don't normally drink!
Where I go is my business.
...Just where are you going every single night!?


serves to purify my body and steel, and also broaden, my mind.
One mouthful of the water of madness
I only drink .. one mouthful before a battle.

Just who am I . to you!?
Don't you ever want to spend some time alone with me.. heart-to-heart?
B-But still..

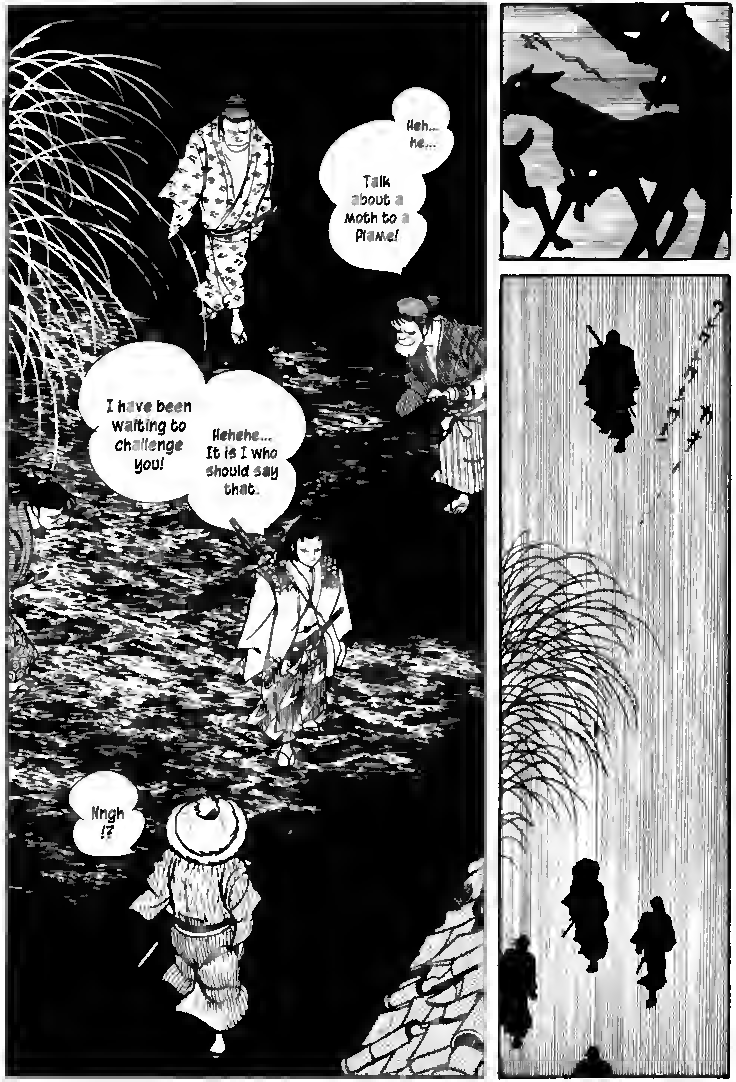

Hehehe, but of course,
All women are objects to me, so I am not limited to just you
And you are the woman to quench those desires!
There are times when I desire the touch of a woman's flesh...
I am a mature and common man.


What exactly is stopping you from leaving!?
Then why do you continue to follow me?
You de-spise me?
Despi-cable?


Y-You are so
despi-cable !!

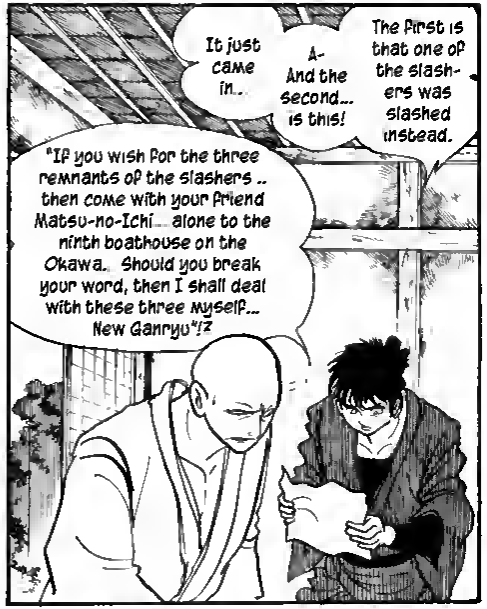
Hehe.. Ever since I learned the design of a woman's body, it is not difficult for me to make them scream in bed! I know just where and how to push to make them happy.
Fallen for my well-trained body and my techniques in bed at night.
You have fallen for my body..
.....
It is a simple reason
Shall I say it?
...So,
In a relationship between a man and a woman, there is nothing more uncertain and untrustworthy than love!
don't tell me that it's because you love me.
You do not have to worry about money when you are with me.
And one more thing.
I know the proper technique to attain any woman I wish. It is no different to me.
If the weakness of your heart that still cares for me is ever defeated, and you truly come to despise me.. then you may leave at will!

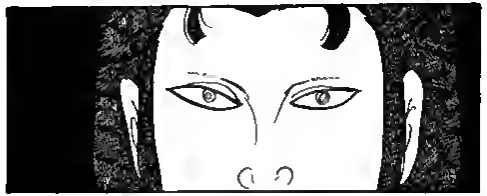
Is that all?
Be careful
Silly!
Huh?
Urk!
Hehe he...

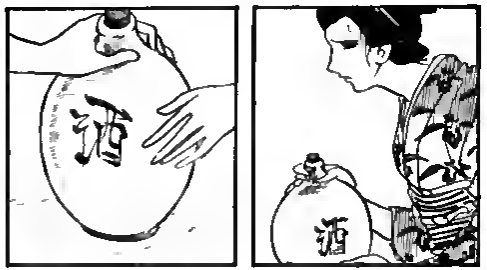

Heh... he...
Talk about a moth to a flame!
I have been waiting to challenge you!
Hehehe... It is I who should say that.
Hngh !?

Ichi!!!
It's terrible!!
T-That's right! Two horrible things just happened!

酒
Well then...
.....

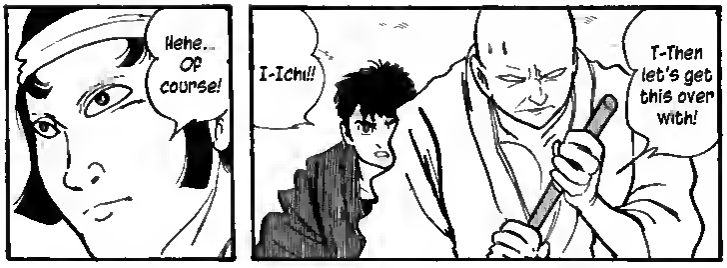

It just came in..
A- And the second... is this!
The first is that one of the slashers was slashed instead.
"If you wish for the three remnants of the slashers .. then come with your friend Matsu-no-Ichi... alone to the ninth boathouse on the Okawa. Should you break your word, then I shall deal with these three myself... New Ganryu"!?

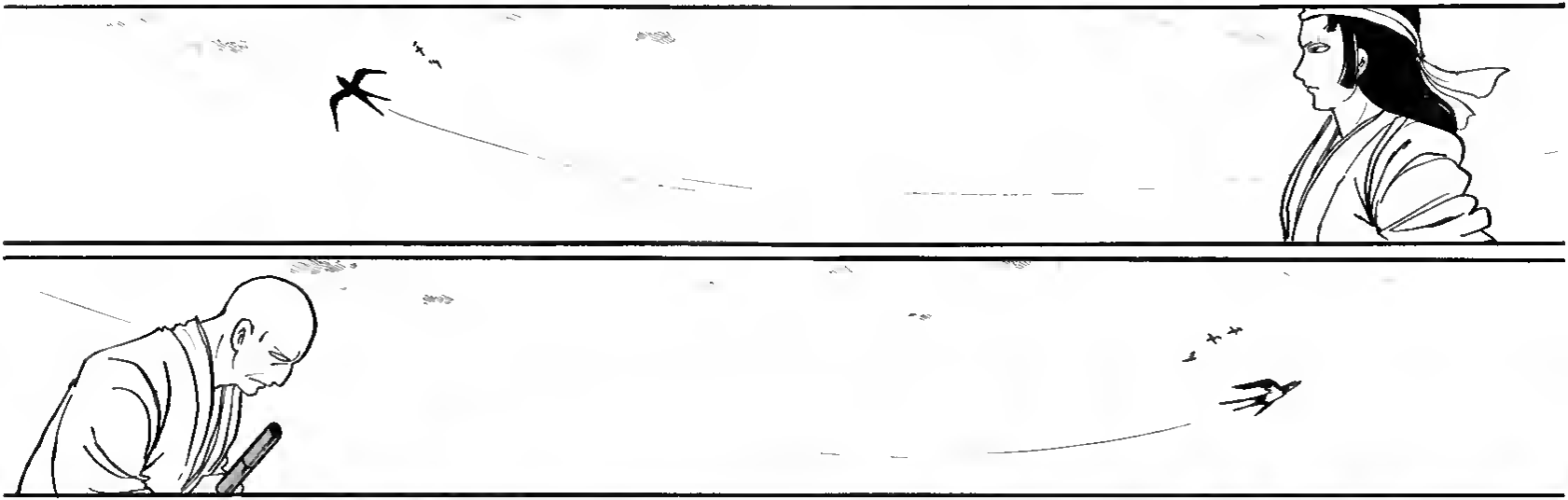


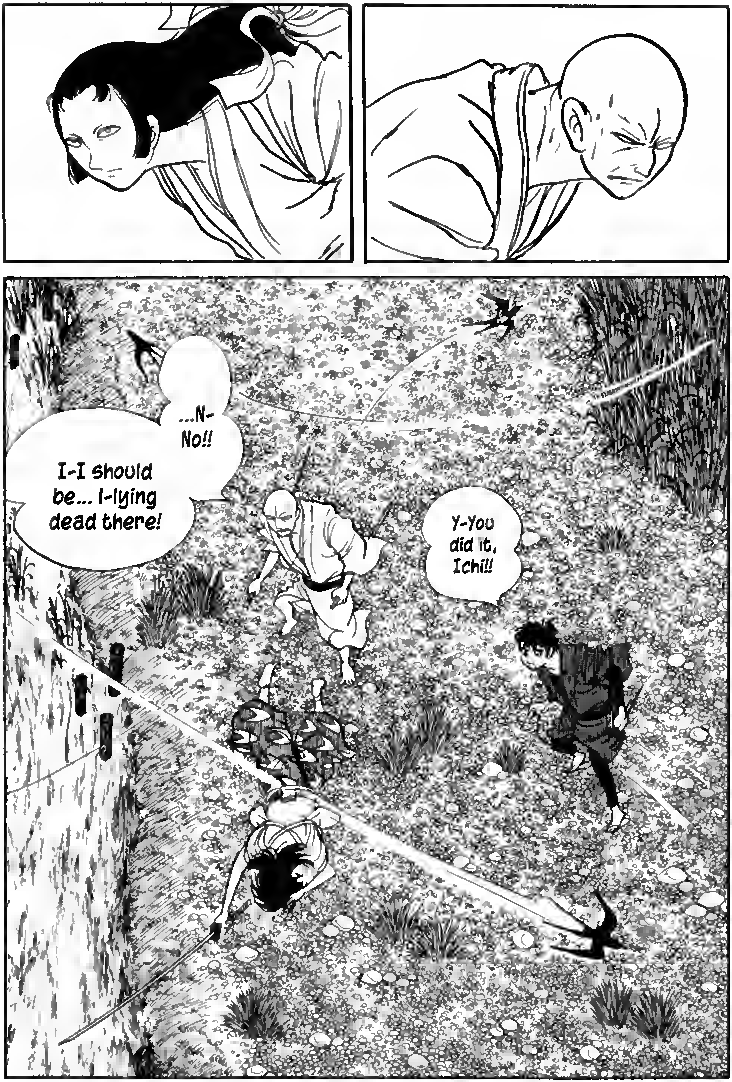

酒
酒

I swing my sword and drive you to its point!!
how you escape my blade
I do not watch and see
But this is the "new" Ganryu.
I said I would make it so.
...A-And if I...
insist on refusing ...?
This is what I shall do!

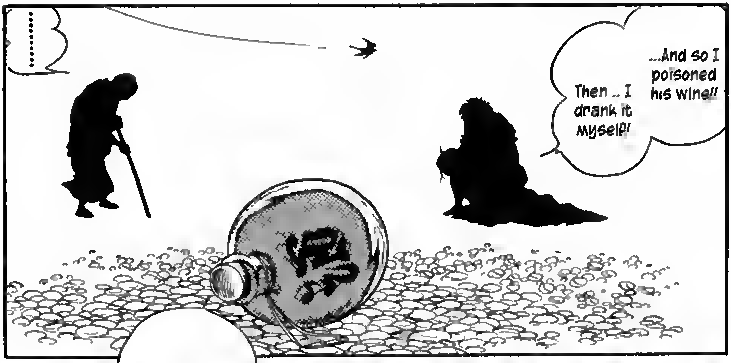
Awa wawa wa..
Eek!!
..wa wa..
... wah!!
then I shall dispose of the other two,
and create yet another chance!
And if you will still not face me,


Hehe... Of course!
I-Ichi!!
T-Then let's get this over with!

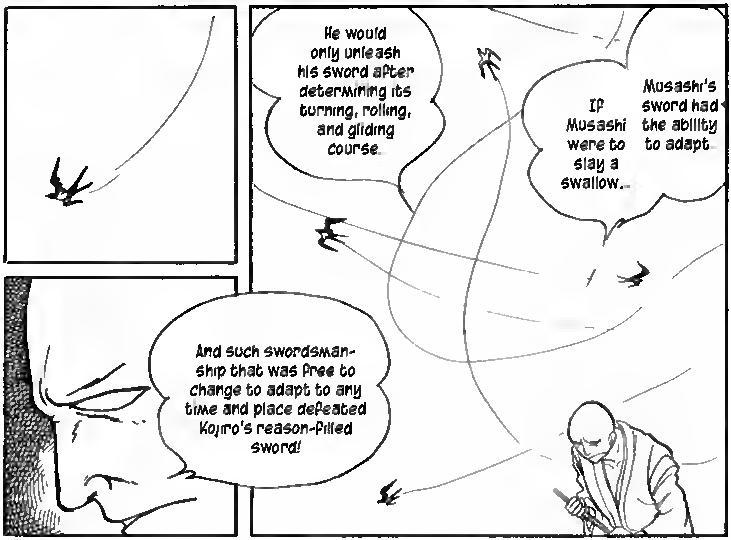



...N-No!!
I-I should be... I-lying dead there!
Y-You did it, Ichi!!

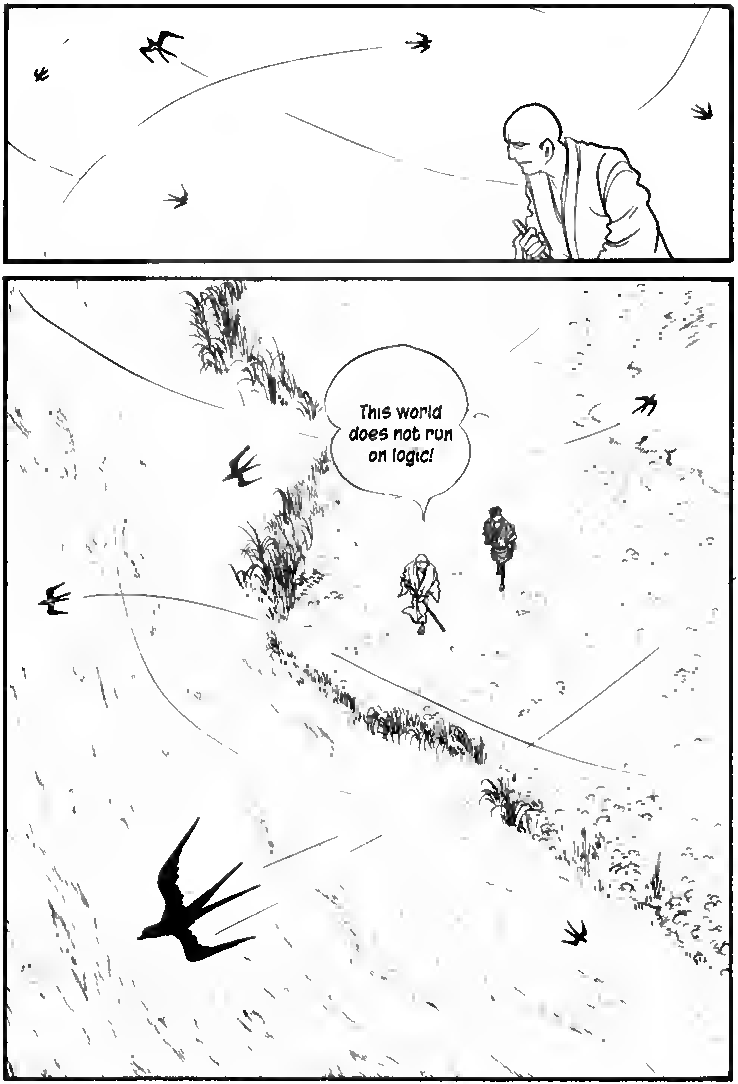
I-If that man...
had not suddenly choked and reeled that instant...!!
Urrrghh..
W-Who's there!?
I...I had... F...Fallen for that man... From the bottom of my heart...
Yet... he w...would not trust me.


...And so I poisoned his wine!!
Then ... I drank it myself!

..Kojiro was defeated by Musashi..
not because of his mind..
He lost in technique after all..


He would only unleash his sword after determining its turning, rolling, and gliding course.
If Musashi were to slay a swallow..
Musashi's sword had the ability to adapt.
And such swordsmanship that was free to change to adapt to any time and place defeated Kojiro's reason-filled sword!

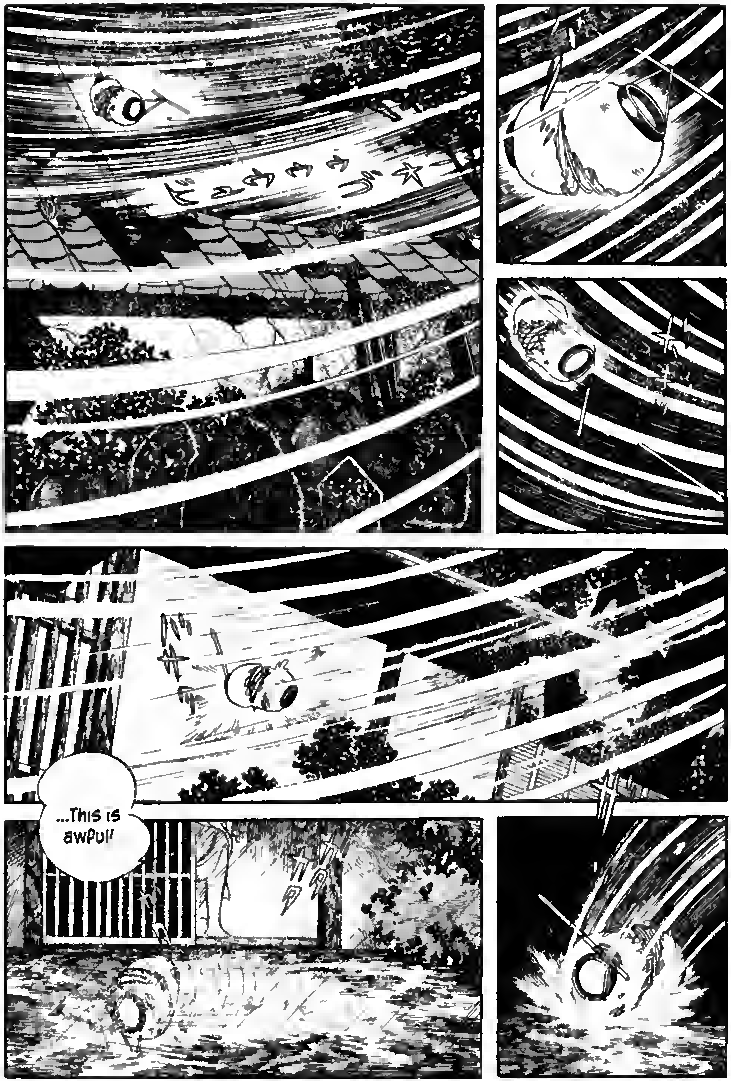
燕返し

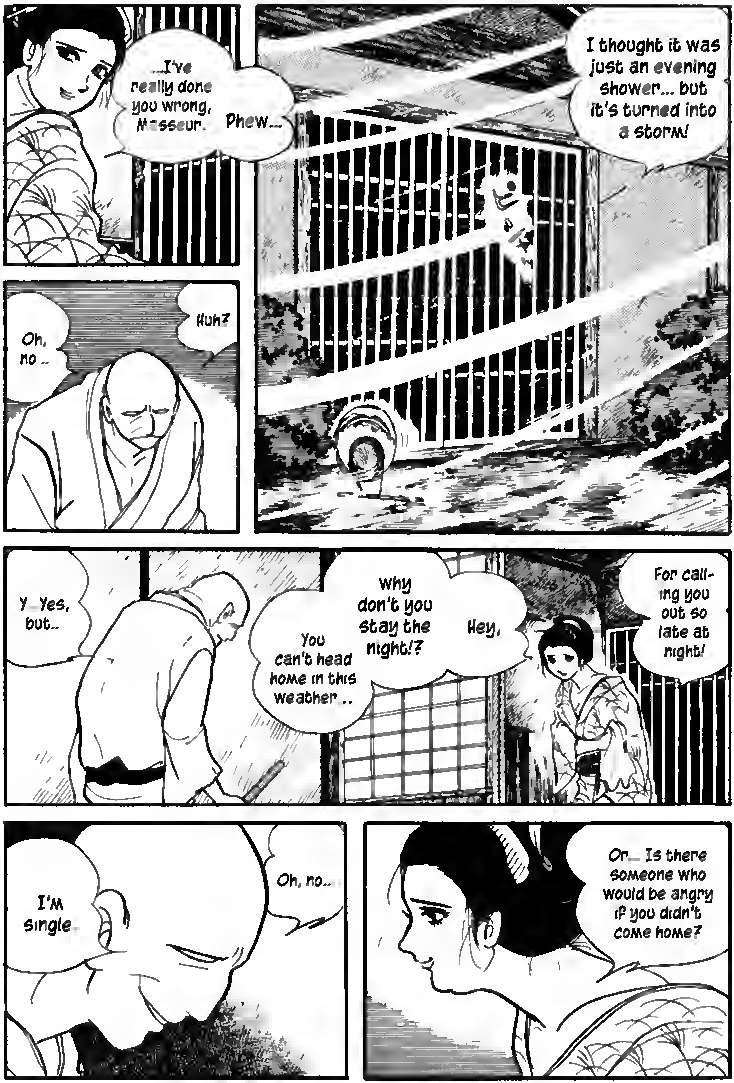


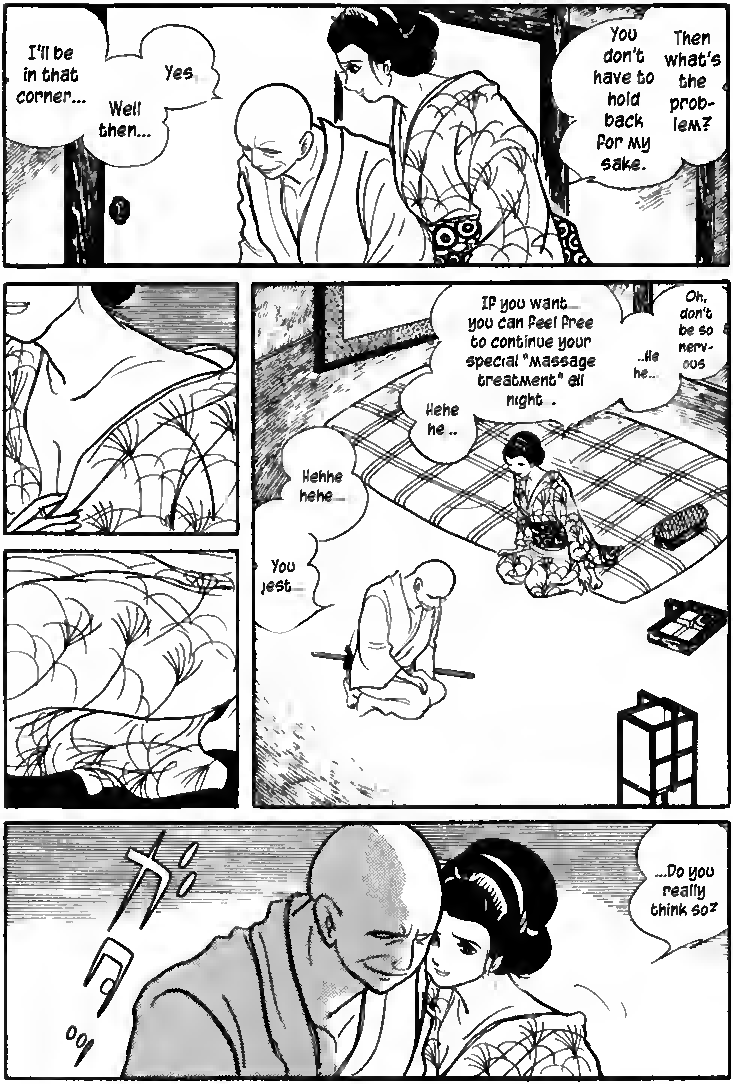
May 25, 1971: "Swallow Counter" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 66
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 67: Storm

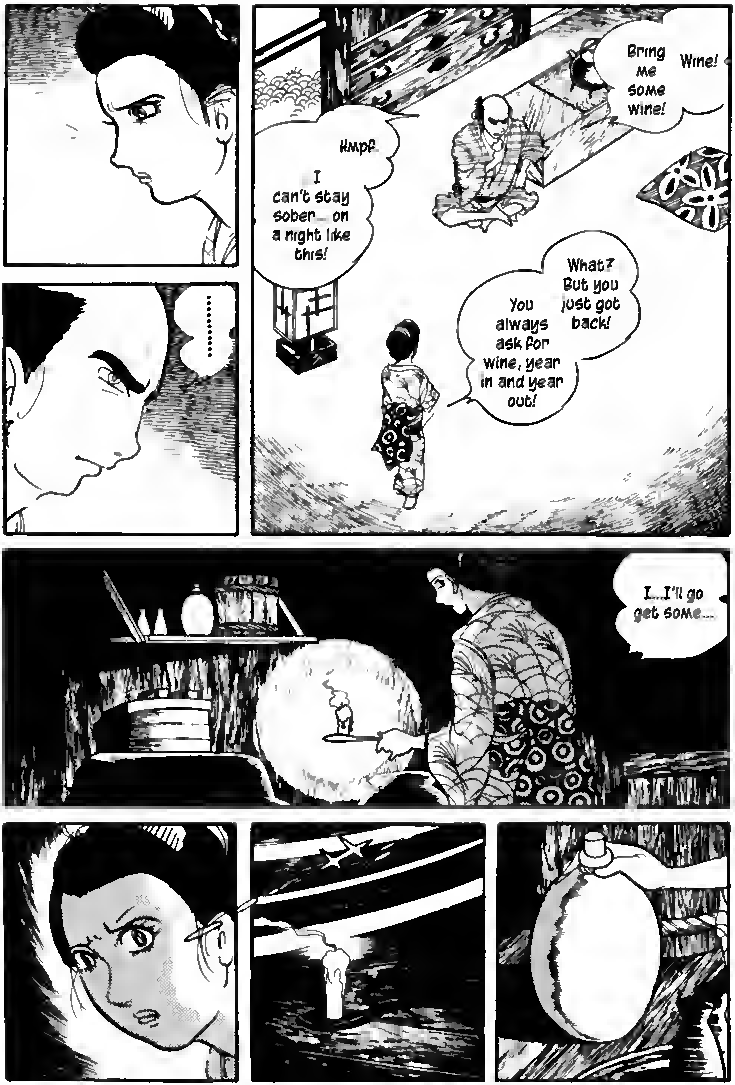

...This is awful!

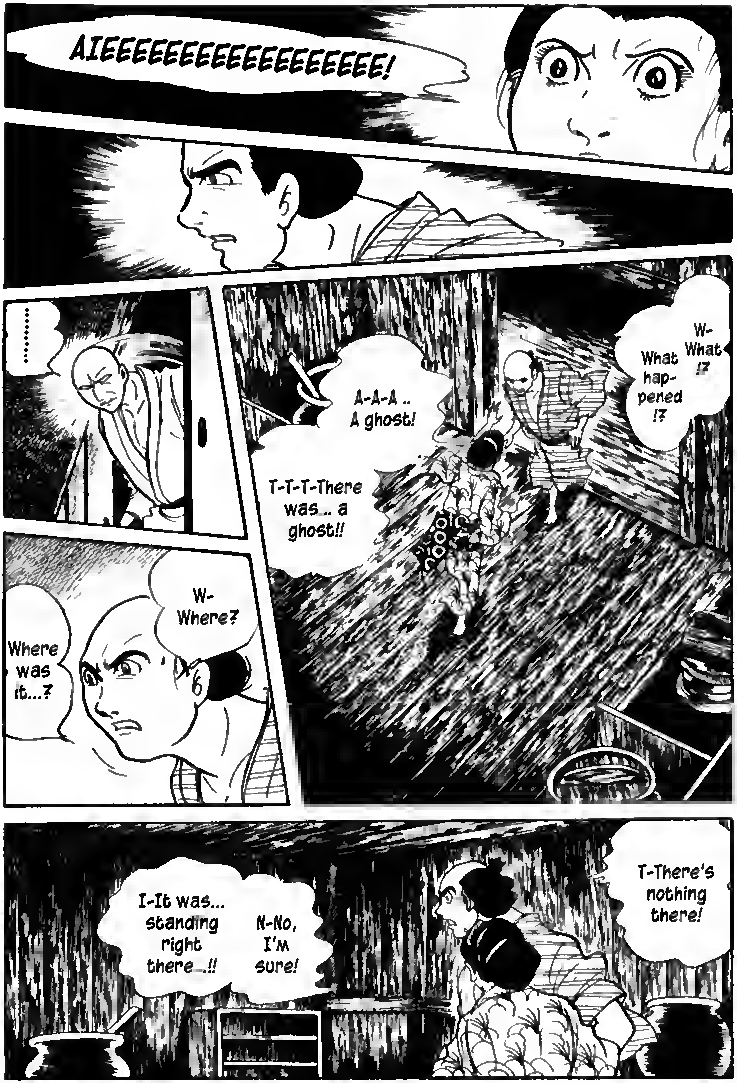

...I've really done you wrong, Masseur.
Phew...
I thought it was just an evening shower... but it's turned into a storm!
Huh?
Oh, no...
Y...Yes, but...
You can't head home in this weather...
Why don't you stay the night!?
Hey,
For calling you out so late at night!
I'M single.
Oh, no...
Or... Is there someone who would be angry if you didn't come home?


I'll be in that corner...
Yes
Well then...
Then what's the problem?
You don't have to hold back for my sake.
Oh, don't be so nervous
..He he..
IF you want... you can feel free to continue your special "Massage treatment" all night.
Hehe he..
Hehhe hehe...
You jest...
...Do you really think so?
ooy

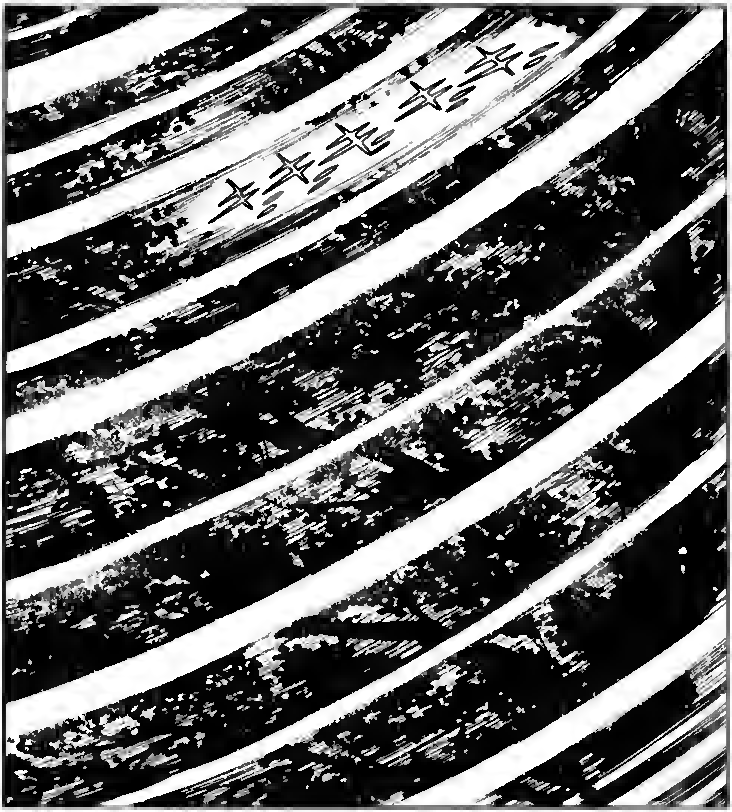
O-Oh, it's just you
I walked through the wind and rain just to see you...
And it was dreadful!
In no time at all...
What do you mean, just me?
Hyaaah!!
...He's been completely blown in.
So I told him to stay the night.
Yes, it's a pleasure.
Oh, who's that?
Well, it seems I've caused a great deal of trouble, even though you called for me...
Oh, a masseur!

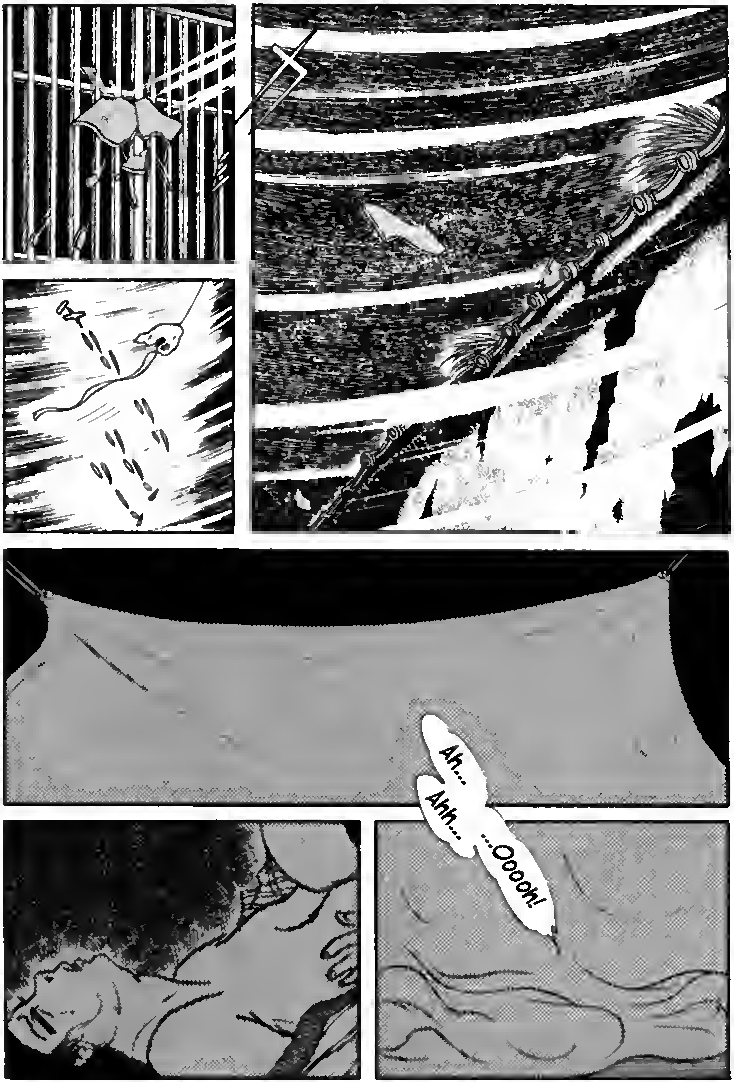
This way...
Oh, I see. Then
...Well, I'll go find a different room.
...Just wait, I'll put the light on.
I-I don't need a fight!
I didn't think he was gonna show.
Heheh, I'm sorry.
The mattresses are in the closet if you reconsider.
I see Alright then...
Well... make yourself at home.
...Enjoy yourself Hehehe...
But at least let me get you a mattress...
Oh... Yes, that's right.
Now, no need to mind me...
No, it's muggy enough that I don't need a mattress...


Bring me some wine!
Wine!
Hmpf.
I can't stay sober— on a night like this!
What? But you just got back!
You always ask for wine, year in and year out!
I...I'll go get some...

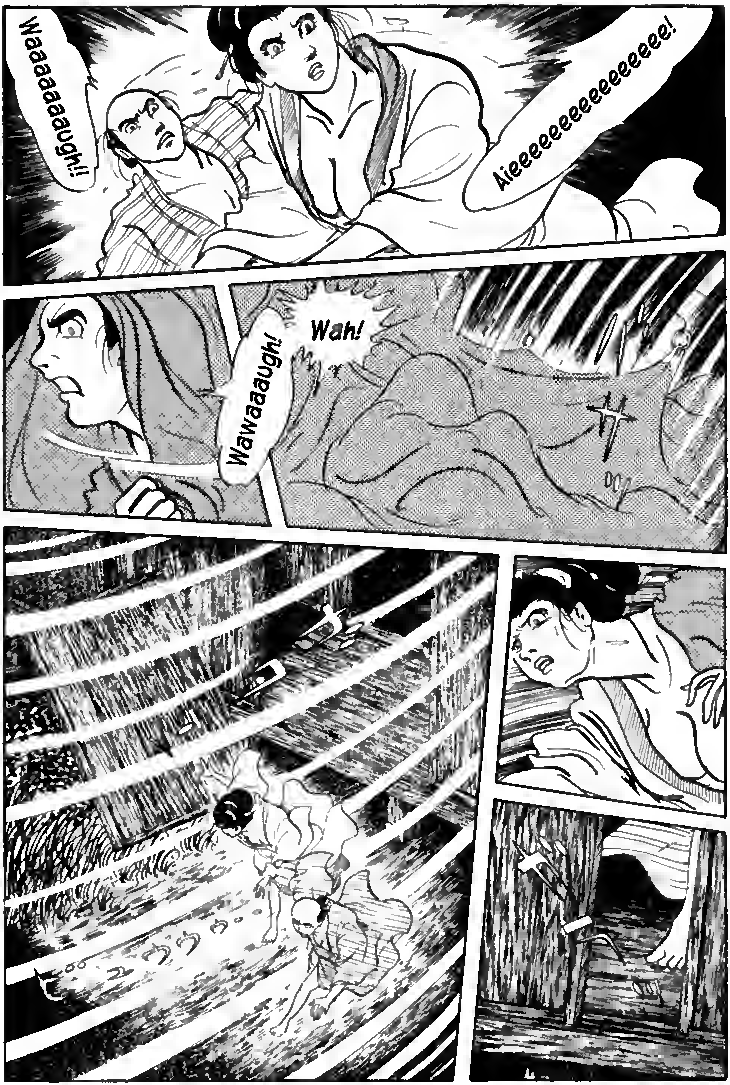

AIEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!
W-What!?
What happened!?
A-A-A.. A ghost!
T-T-T-There was.. a ghost!!
W-Where?
Where was it...?
T-There's nothing there!
I-It was... standing right there...!!
N-No, I'm sure!

Eek!!
Ahhh!
What is it?
Is something wrong?
I.. It's nothing.
It's nothing!
A draft just put out the light..
and that startled us!
.....
Now, there's no need to worry about us!
Just go back.. and rest!
Yes...




Ah...
Ahh...
...Oooh!

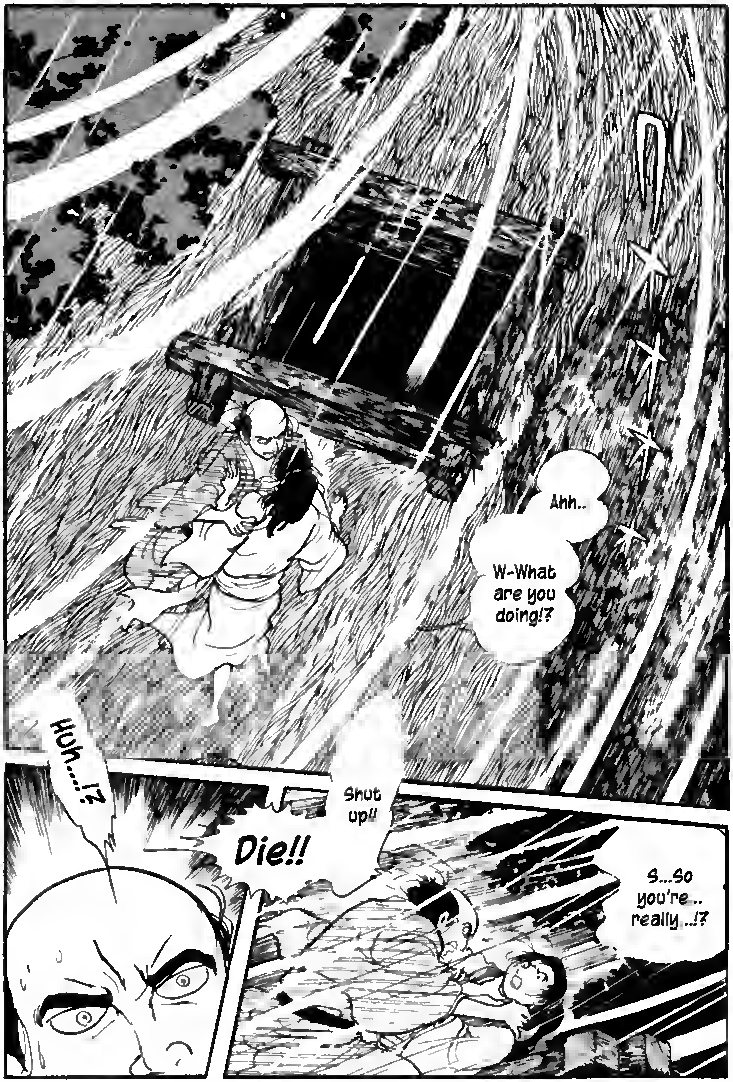
Huh!?
Ahh!!


Waaaaaaaugh!!
Aieeeeeeeeeeeeeee!
Wah!
Wawaaaugh!

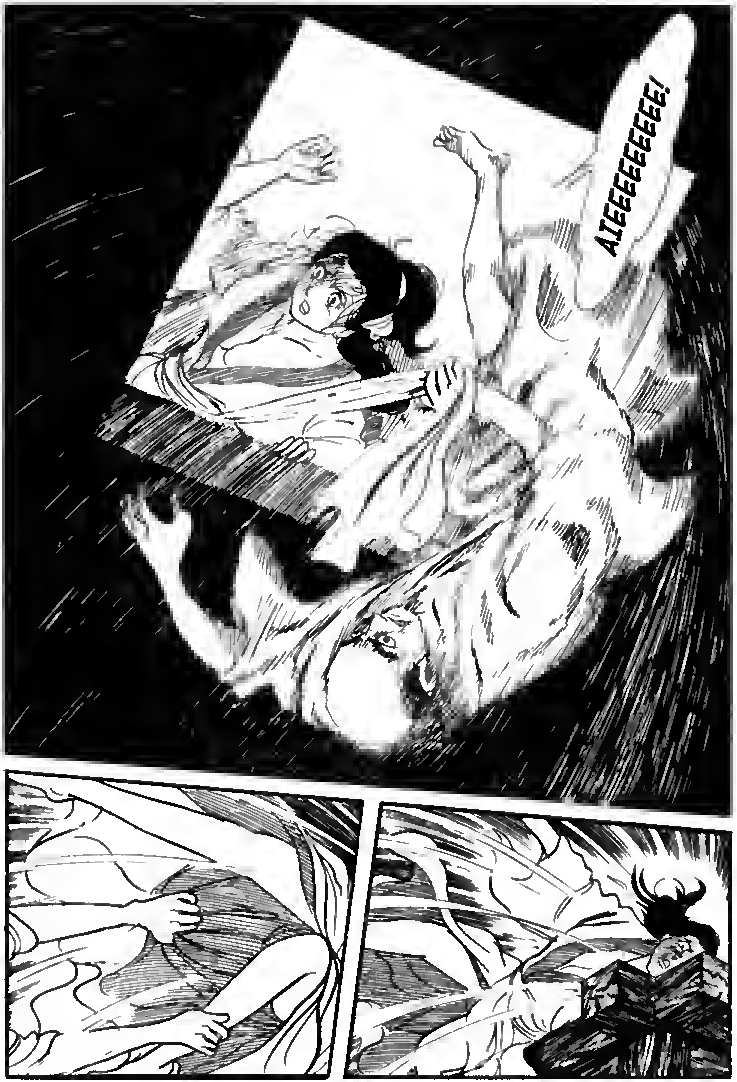
Eek!
This way!!
T...
T...
Ahh!!

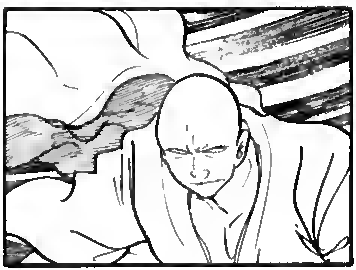
HMM
!?
ニヤリ

Dear!!
D... Dear ...!!
.....
Kch...

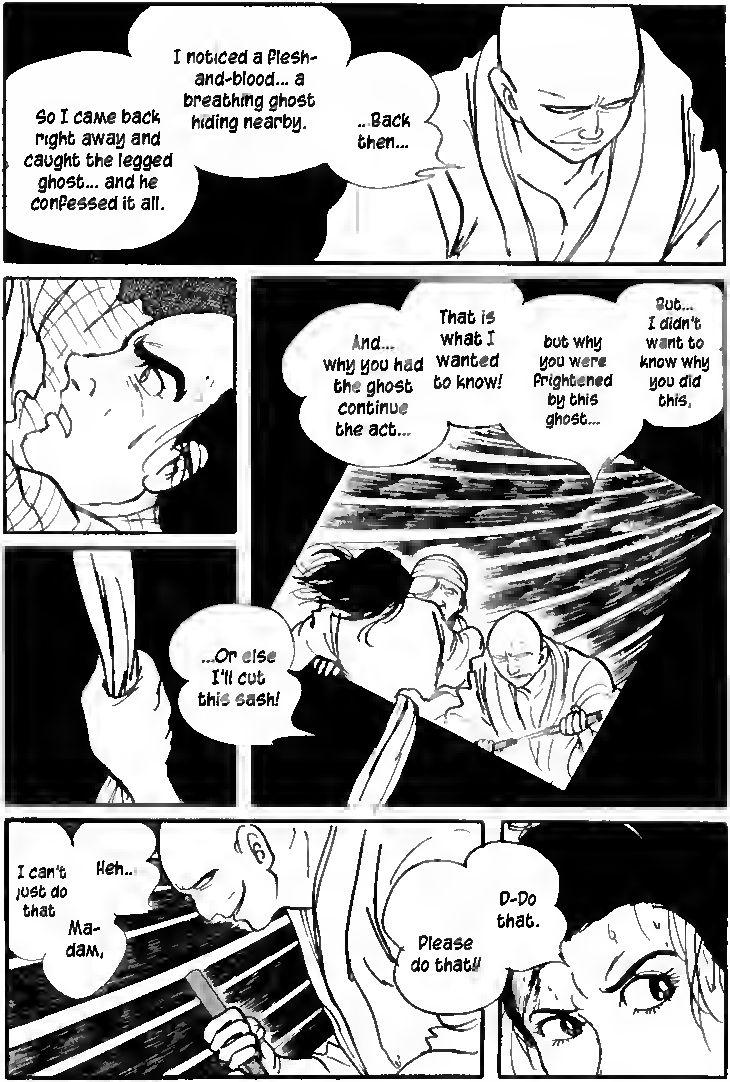

Ahh..
W-What are you doing!?
Shut up!!
Die!!
Huh...!?
S...So you're... really ..!?

Eek!?
Wa-wah...
Waaaaaugh!

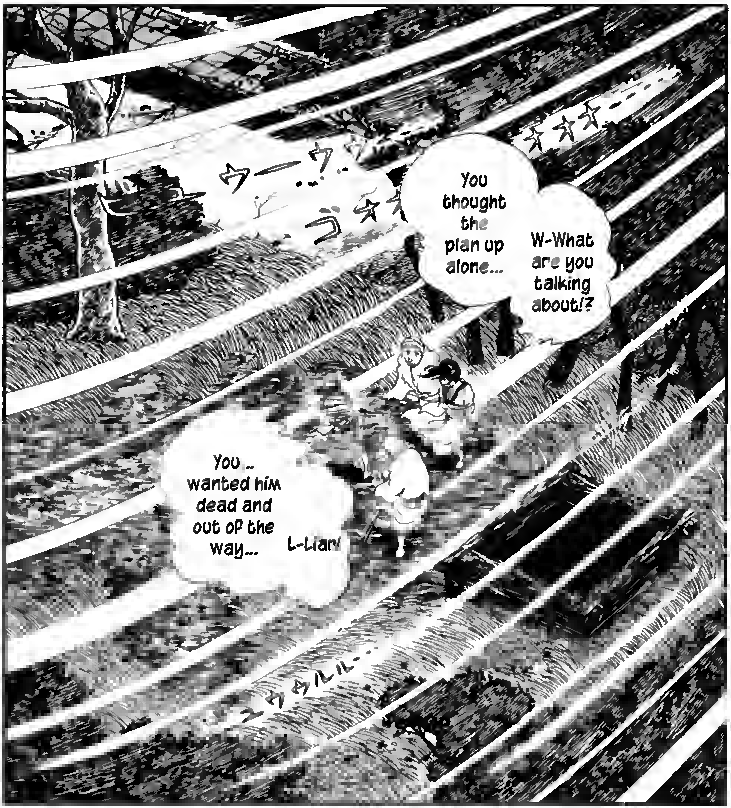

AIEEEEEEEE!

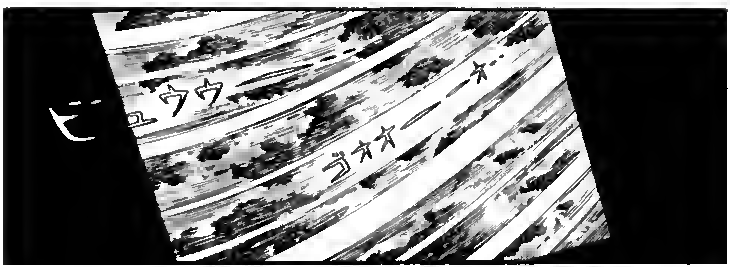


When you were startled by the fake ghost you yourself hired!
...Hmpf. You're one hopeless fellow to fall into a well...
H-Help me!
Pull me up!
I can pull you up..
but there's one thing I have to ask first.
I-I know.
H-He's gotten tired of me!
He's found a young mistress..
I figured... that much myself.
S-So he staged this...
to make me rush outside.. and push me down a well...
to kill me!!

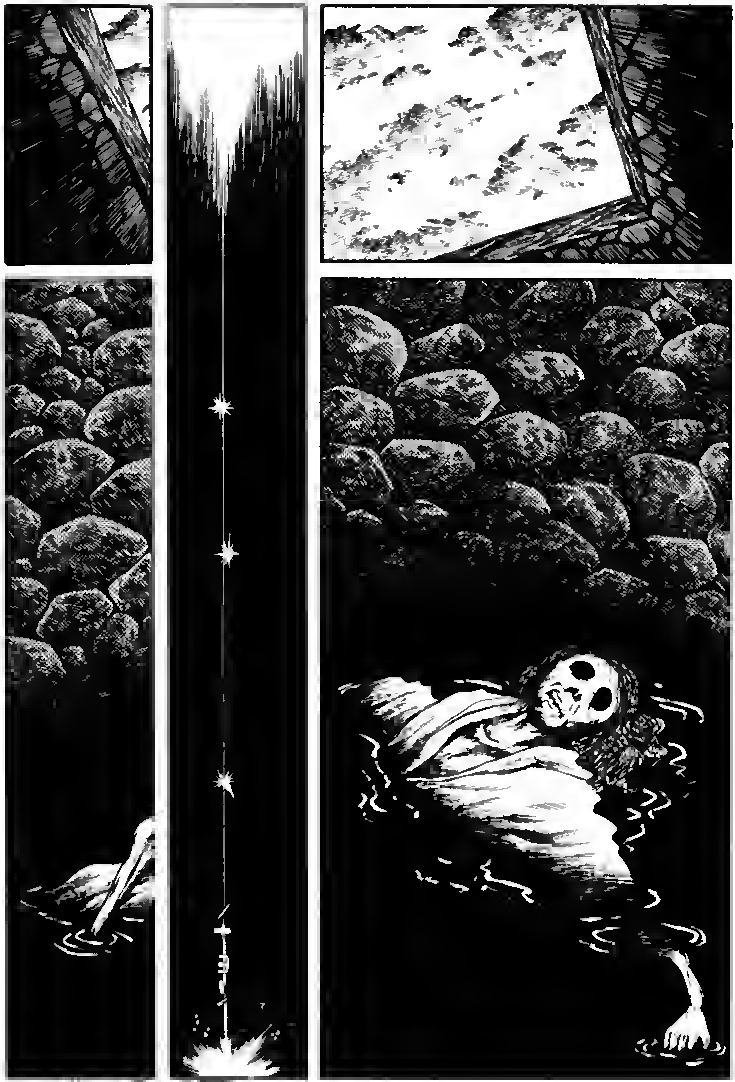

I noticed a flesh-and-blood... a breathing ghost hiding nearby.
So I came back right away and caught the legged ghost... and he confessed it all.
..Back then...
But... I didn't want to know why you did this,
but why you were frightened by this ghost...
That is what I wanted to know!
And... why you had the ghost continue the act...
...Or else I'll cut this sash!
I can't just do that
Heh..
Ma-dam,
Please do that!!
D-Do that.

Thinking that if it came to it... I could slay this man and the ghost!
So .. you .. called me here knowing that I could perform a quick-draw!
and that this was going to happen.
You knew that the ghost was a hoax,
S-She asked me...
a-and to-gether... in last night's storm...
That ghost... is her husband!!
I must say... Your cowering was awful!
Hehehe... Neither of you would make good actors.


ウーウ…
ゴオオ…
オオ…
You thought the plan up alone...
W-What are you talking about!?
You .. wanted him dead and out of the way...
L-Liar!
ユウルル…


ウウ
ゴオオ

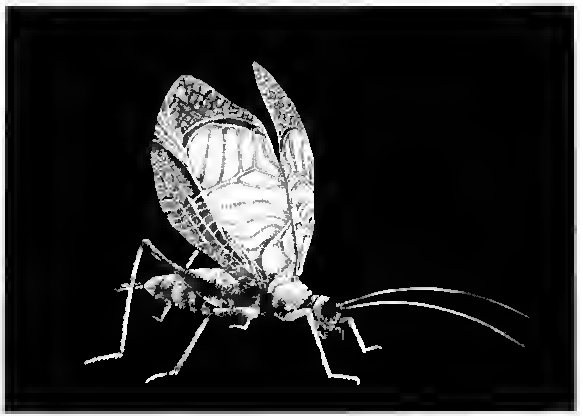
あらし

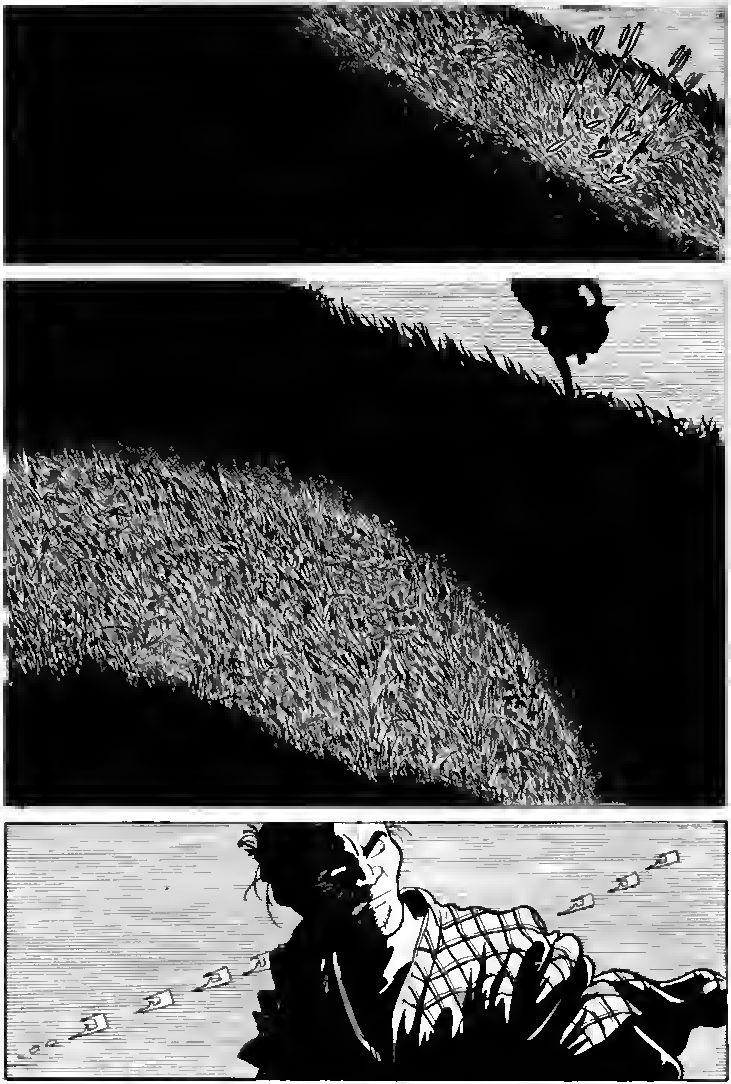


August 25, 1971 "Storm" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 67
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 68: Cricket





Yeah!
He ran inside that mansion!
Bro Sabu!
Yeah!
He may try to escape from there!
Alright, You Gimpei. hurry around back!
Of course, Boss!
Who stabbed Sukezo the Pock-marked!
Hmpf, at least I have figured out that he's the one...
.. I'll keep watch out here... and...
Huh ...?
Heh... Ehah... W-Well, you're right.
Don't you people run away from thief-takers even when you're not guilty?
Heh... he...
he wouldn't have been running around like that.
If it wasn't him,

But if he escapes, we'll be back to square one...
...And we still don't have any proof, either...
...They've got a firm rule that we can't bring someone in just for fleeing!
...It may get cold... but at least we can be grateful that there's no rain or snow!
but a murder is a murder
Keh... It may have been the result... of a pathetic spit between hooligans...
So, Boss.
We don't need two people just to keep watch.
Yeah, you're right.
Uh... What should I do?
What is it?
I told you not to call me Boss!
That's just cruel!
You go back to the tenement house and sleep.
Can't you let me do something?
I'm helping you here!

And you just followed Ginpei without permission
I asked for Ginpei's help!
Whoa whoa
And... I don't remember asking for your help!
This isn't a game, you idiot!
..Poop
Go home now!
Alright, it's bedtime for kids like you!
..Hang on, Butamatsu!
Yes, yes!! Yes!
Yes?
Now that's what I wanted to hear!
..Why don't I give you a job to do?

Yes, yes
And then ..?
Don't leave that spot until he comes out...!
and tell Ginpei this:
While you're on your way.. Go around behind the mansion..
go to the Boss' house, and tell Midori I might not be coming back tonight...
. Well, after that,
shouldn't that be enough?
Oh,
..Seri-ously.
Kch, what the hell!?
Heh.. Ehe.. Ehehe..
that you're not cheating on her!
I'll make sure to tell Sis
You got it, Boss!

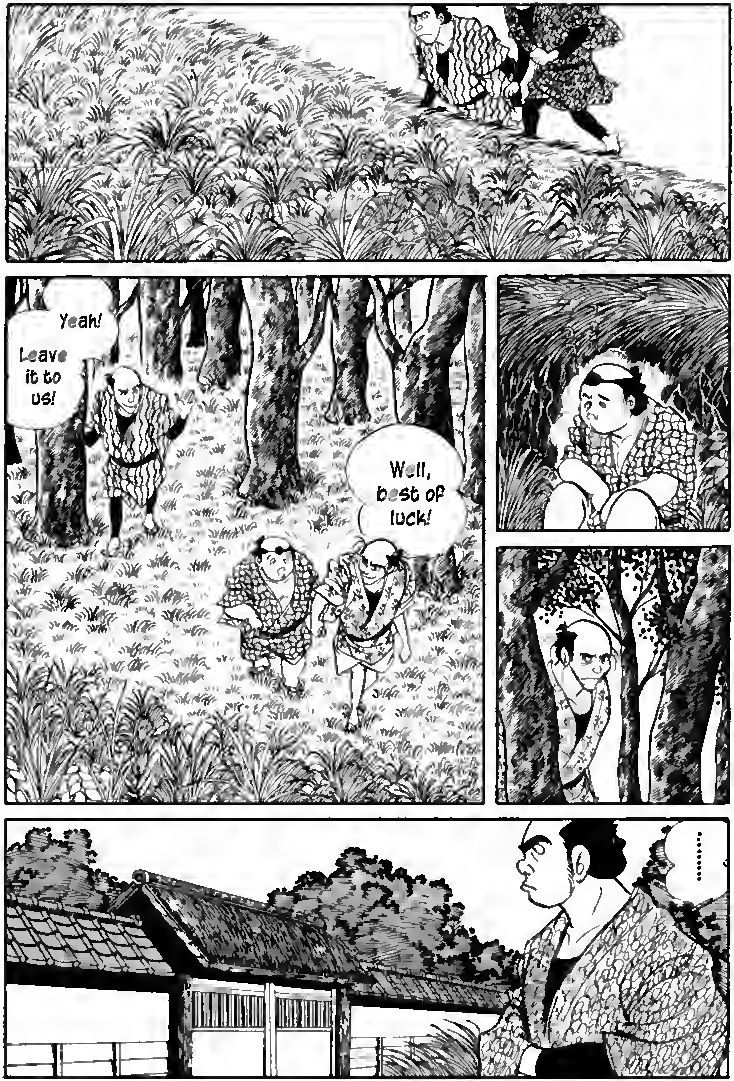
...Boss!!

Th-!
T-Th...
Huh ...!?
What!?
The Boss ...!!
Butamatsu iz
What did you come back Pon!?
Sob...
Sob...
...Sob

so suddenly!?
W...Why did this happen...
Waaaaaaaaaaaugh!!
B-Boss!!
that his body utterly weakened!
...He'd been bedridden for so long...
D..Don't lose heart...
...M-Midori!!
.....
A...Ahhh...

I'm sure... that's why the Boss could go in peace .. Look at his peaceful face...!
You have Sabu with you!
...That's right.... Midori...!!
SIGN MOURNING
忌

about those two!!
I...I completely forgot...
Ahh!
Huh!?
T-Thank you!
and have them take their place, so you sit down...!
Alright, got it.
I'll send two of my men...
Boss Tobe... the Lightning!!

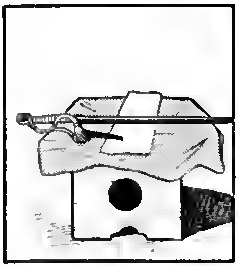

Yeah!
Leave it to us!
Well, best of luck!
.....

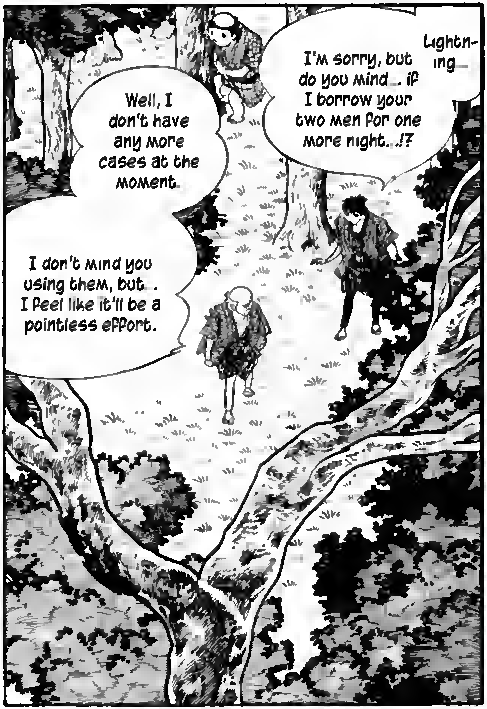
Bro ...!
...B-
...Well, is he still...!?
Yeah.
That's strange.
It's already the third day.
...That's suspicious. Perhaps he knows he's being watched...
Otherwise he stole away while they weren't looking...

and your two men have been taking shifts day and night... and haven't taken an eye off the doors for a second!
That can't be!
My two men...
Buh...!?
Buta-Matsu!!
But, this could be possible!
It'd be stranger if you didn't doze off.
Doing this every day can really exhaust you...
N-No, it's fine.
S-Sorry, Boss, I...
B-But he definitely went in there!
...I find it hard to believe that he's hiding local hooligans...
He seems like a Shogunate-approved well-to-do insect raiser!
Nishikawa Tadahira, insect wholesale dealer.

Just leave it alone, and we'll eventually catch someone who'll confess...
After all... It's only a murder between two thugs...
...Why don't you just give up?

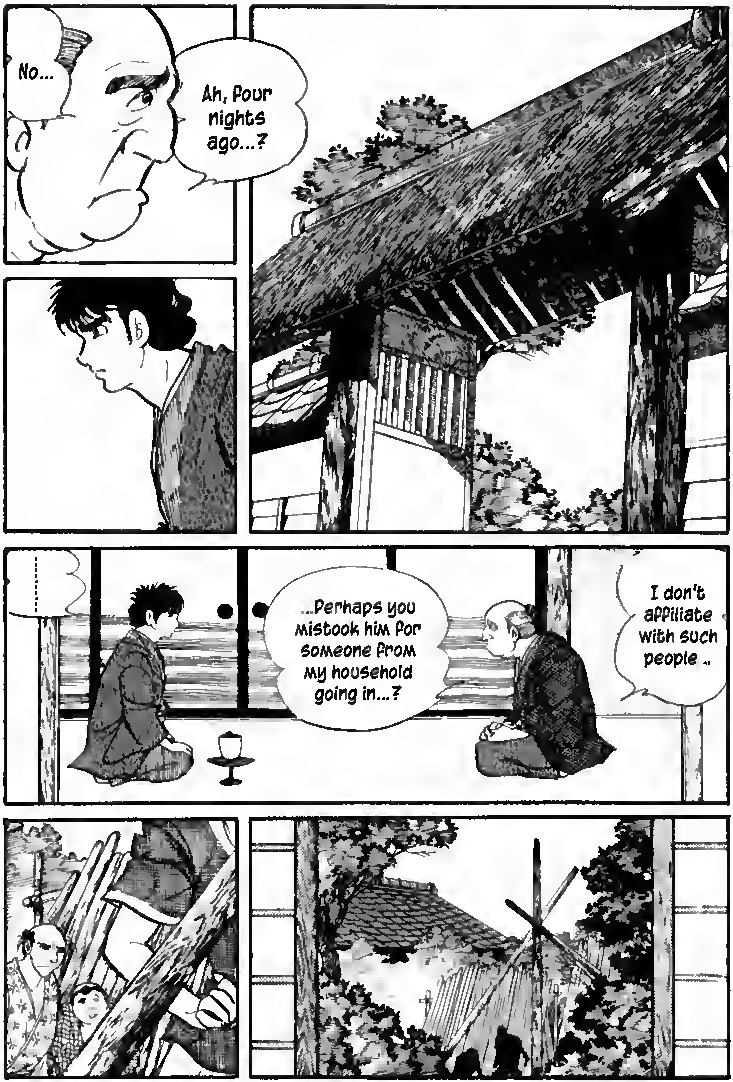
There's something that still bothers me...
And...
...But we've all come... this far!




Lightning...
I'm sorry, but do you mind... if I borrow your two men for one more night...!?
Well, I don't have any more cases at the moment.
I don't mind you using them, but... I feel like it'll be a pointless effort.

I will be expecting much of you.
Yes.
.....
Oh, one more thing .. About the insect wholesale dealer.
But... I hesitated as Saheiji was bedridden...
And .. based on your prior achievements.. I should have done this long ago..
I did speak to Saheiji of this before ..
accept!!
..I gladly...
During his wholesale recognition about a year ago.. his rival over the rights suddenly died and Nishikawa...
However,
I looked into him.. and didn't find anything suspicious

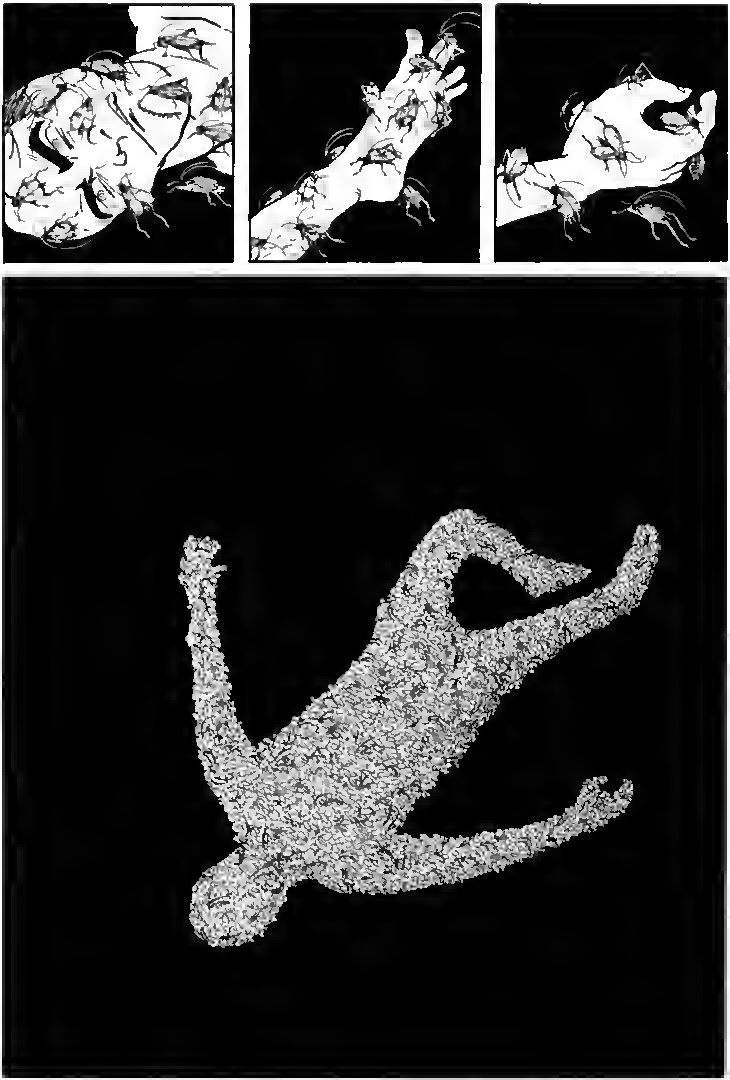
And they say that his rival, who had the letter of approval .. got drunk on celebratory wine and fell into the river ..
got the rights without any trouble.. or so they say..
Yes, now that you mention it ..
Though he always seemed to be in good spirits...
..He said something strange about keeping chirping insects in his bosom.
!

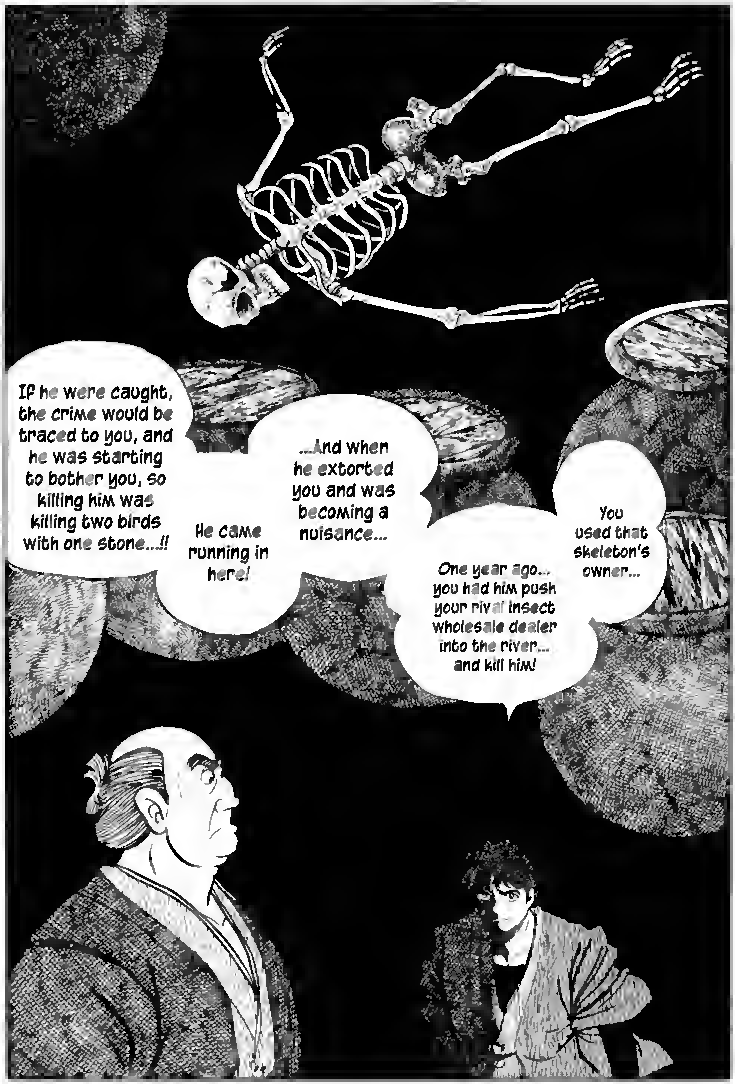

No...
Ah, four nights ago...?
...Perhaps you mistook him for someone from my household going in...?
I don't affiliate with such people ..

He says that the current one is getting too cramped...
We're just making new insect breeding grounds..
...This mansion's so splendid, and so new. so what are you building here?
Pretty good business you got
Guess you can't say they're just plain ol' bugs
Hmm ...
Huh!?
Ahhh!
I...I haven't the slightest clue...
After all, I only expanded my mansion here about a year ago...
Sir, what's this...!?

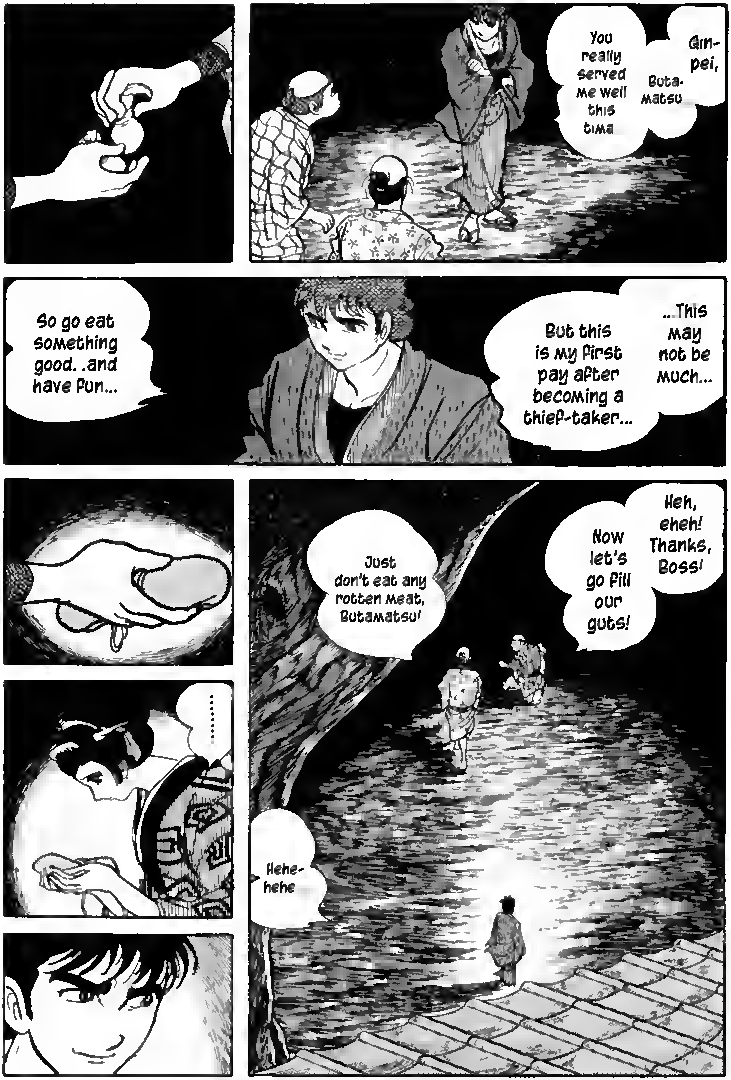
Huh?
Y-you don't suppose... that belonged to the guy that just came in?
Hey, Bro Gimpei,
So it had to have been buried here before then...
It is too clean!
...I see. He's right...
It'd take a year or two...
What are you, stupid? Human skeletons don't get this clean after four or five days.

So you didn't end up finding him?
Huh?
No.
I was... trying to catch him in the Boss' honor... but he got away.
カチャ
It's fine.
You don't need to push...
.....
Oh, what's the matter?
What's ...!?




You used that skeleton's owner...
One year ago... you had him push your rival insect wholesale dealer into the river... and kill him!
...And when he extorted you and was becoming a nuisance...
He came running in here!
If he were caught, the crime would be traced to you, and he was starting to bother you, so killing him was killing two birds with one stone...!!

But when you buried those bones... You were worried that you may be found out from the freshly-turned soil... So you started construction. That would make it only natural for the soil to be turned... and you had an excuse in case they were found
You did well up to the part where you fed his meat to tens of thousands of crickets, stripping him to the bone
But you went a little overboard on the tricks
...I gotta say,
I really feel sorry
For those poor crickets that had to eat rotten meat!!


Ginpei, Butamatsu
You really served me well this time
...This may not be much...
But this is my first pay after becoming a thief-taker...
So go eat something good. .and have fun...
Heh, eheh! Thanks, Boss!
Now let's go fill our guts!
Just don't eat any rotten meat, Butamatsu!
Hehe-hehe
.....

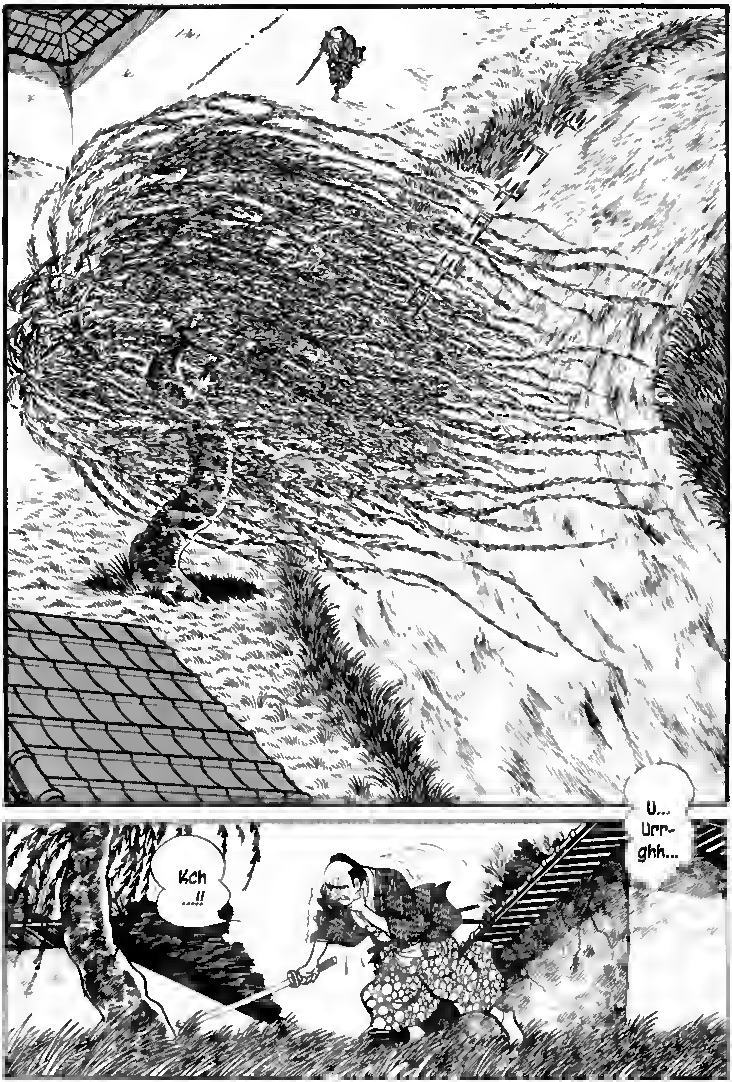
Sob..
F... Father ...
T-This is Sabu's First..
...I'm sure the Boss would be happy Sabu.

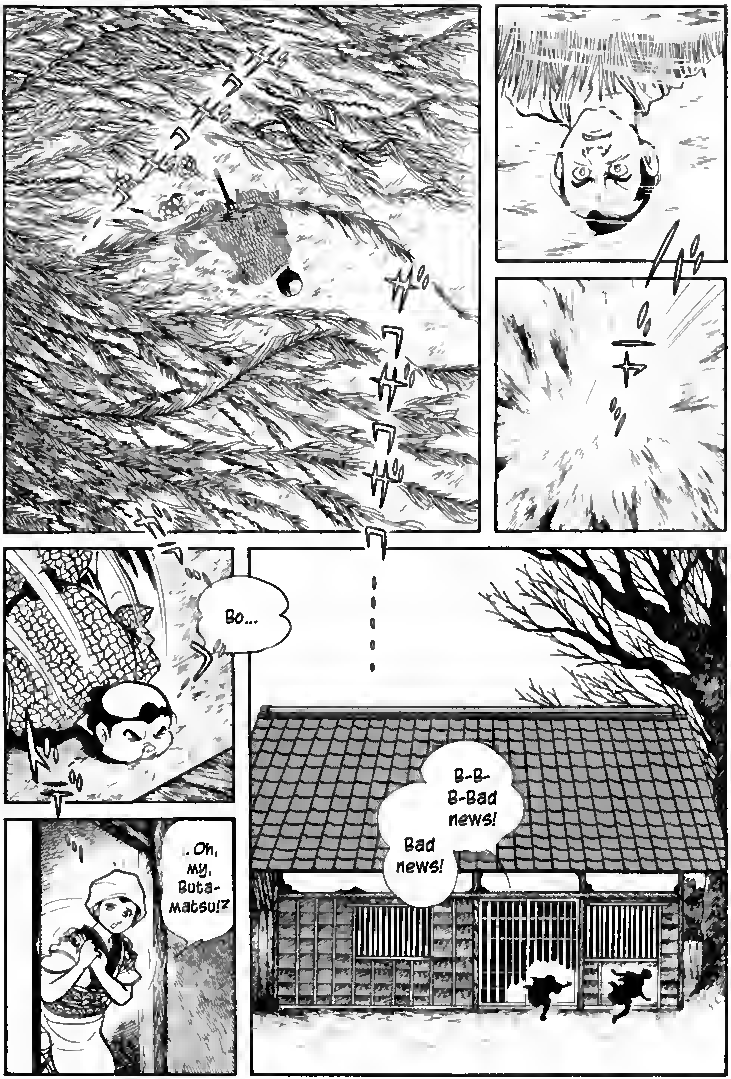
September 25, 1971: "Crickets" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 68
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 69: Yo-yo

ROUND, ROUND, THE YO-YO GOES,
RIGHT TO THE END OF THE STRING...
ROUND, ROUND, THE YO-YO GOES...

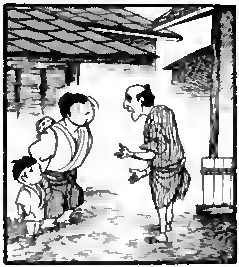

U...
Urr-
ghh...
Kch
...!!

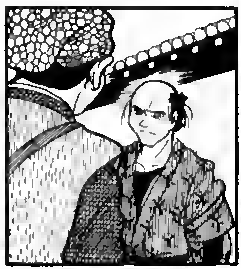

Bo...
B-B-B-Bad news!
Bad news!
..Oh, my, Buta-Matsu!?

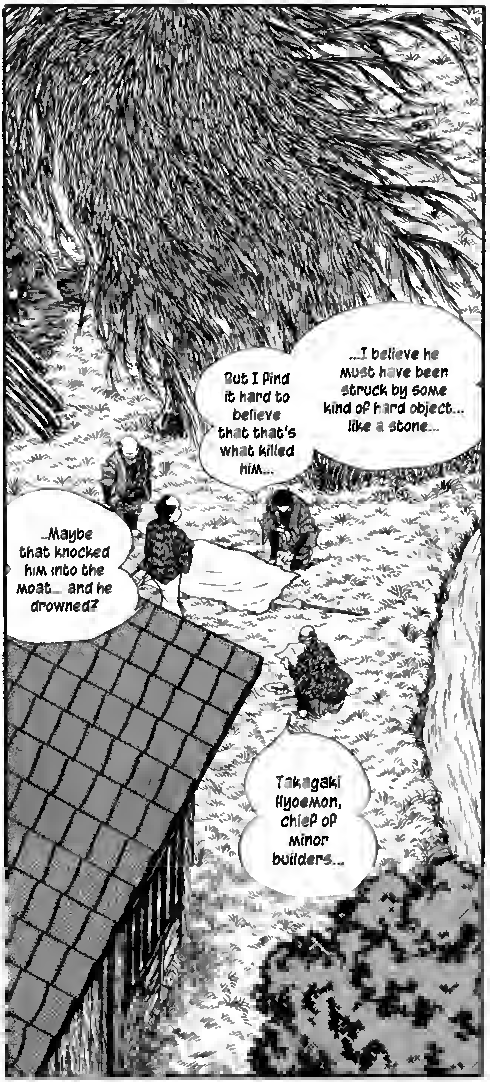
S-So should I call you... Aunt Midori?
...Don't call me that...
Oh, please...
Ma'am!
Baaah!
My husband is...
Sab...
Where's the boss!?
...Sis!
Yes... He was found floating in the Seiten Moat!
What!?
You take care now... Boss.
Got it.
Ichi, this battle will have to wait for now!

was saved at a most convenient time...
it seems that Sabu...
Hehe,
Tch, cut it out!
Yeah...
Hurry...
Ah, Boss!
Sabu...
...Dear!
W-What? I'm in a hurry...
.....

ガ!
Tee-hee hee hee...
ニヤッ
Be careful...
...Let's go!!
Just two places...
There's not a single sword wound.
His cheek and right wrist... with small red bruises...






...I believe he must have been struck by some kind of hard object... like a stone...
But I find it hard to believe that that's what killed him...
...Maybe that knocked him into the moat... and he drowned?
Takagaki Ryoemon, chief of minor builders...

I used to do this all the time when I was a lad.
Let me see it I'll show you how to do it
Wow you guys suck at this!
Tee hee hee!
Listen, when you're using a yo-yo...
—The term minor builder—
番

Boss, if I may...
...Did you notice anything?
Yes
徳川
And a chief would earn between two and three hundred bags of rice, with about twenty samurai under them as a bonus...
...came about to refer to workless vassals of under three thousand koku .. who were put in charge of castle repairs to earn their stipend..
.....
No, nothing yet.. We haven't found anyone particularly suspicious...
I see..
Where's Buta-Matsu?
Sorry, Bro.. No leads..
Gimpei!

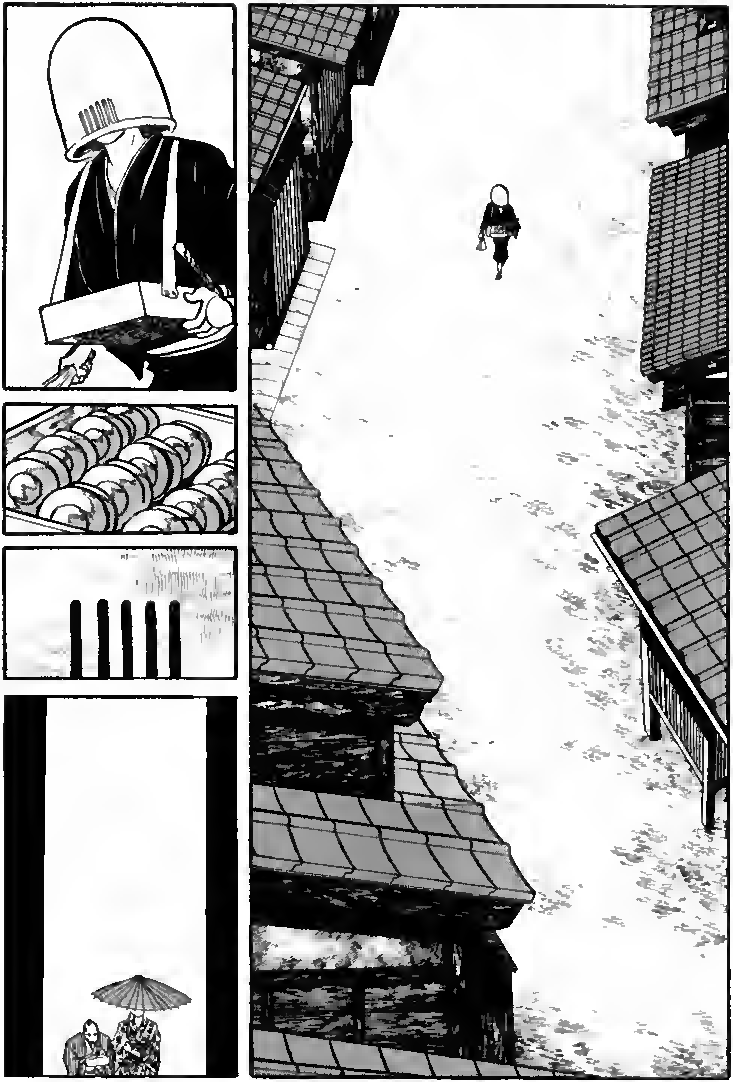
Tempted by the autumn wind...
Huh?
We did split up...
He hasn't come back yet ...?
I saw some kids playing with a yo-yo, so I decided to show them the basics ...
The world's peaceful as ever ..
Tee hehee... I haven't found anything, either
A yo-yo?
Oh!
The withered silvan grass undoes its sash and takes off its clothes ...
Y-You idiot! That's him!!
They said they bought it from a yo-yo vendor that had just recently come to the neighborhood ...
Sure

Huh?
..W-Well, it.. could be him!
Or he could have nothing to do with it.. But either way,
we have to investigate anyone that seems the slightest bit suspicious
Go after him immediately!!
Right now?
Huh?
Oh, I see... Alright,
starting tomorrow..
Sure..

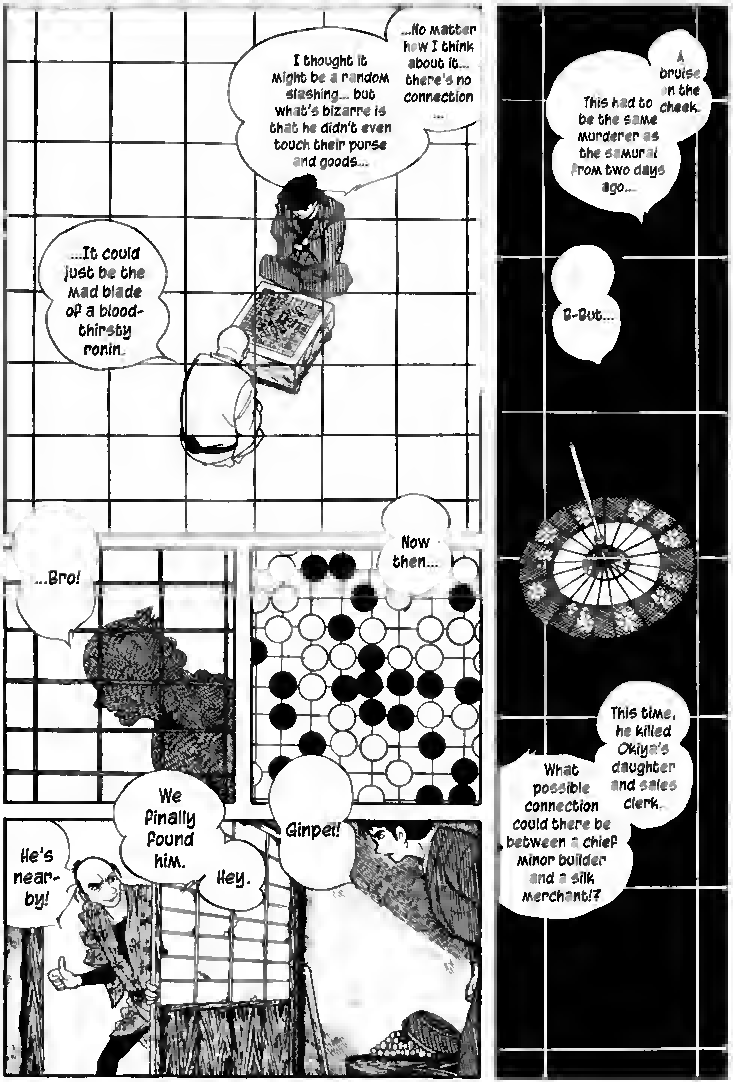
Did you find any clues..?
Oh, Ryuzumi
Yes
Oh, Sir, are you back already ..!?
. Perhaps I should've told them?
It seems.. that this is turning out to be a difficult case, huh, my boy!?
Hmpf, really?
Huh?
...Oh, no... not at all..
Oh, is that a yo-yo?
Teehee... What are you mumbling to yourself about..?
no matter who captures him...
..It's better that the criminal is captured..

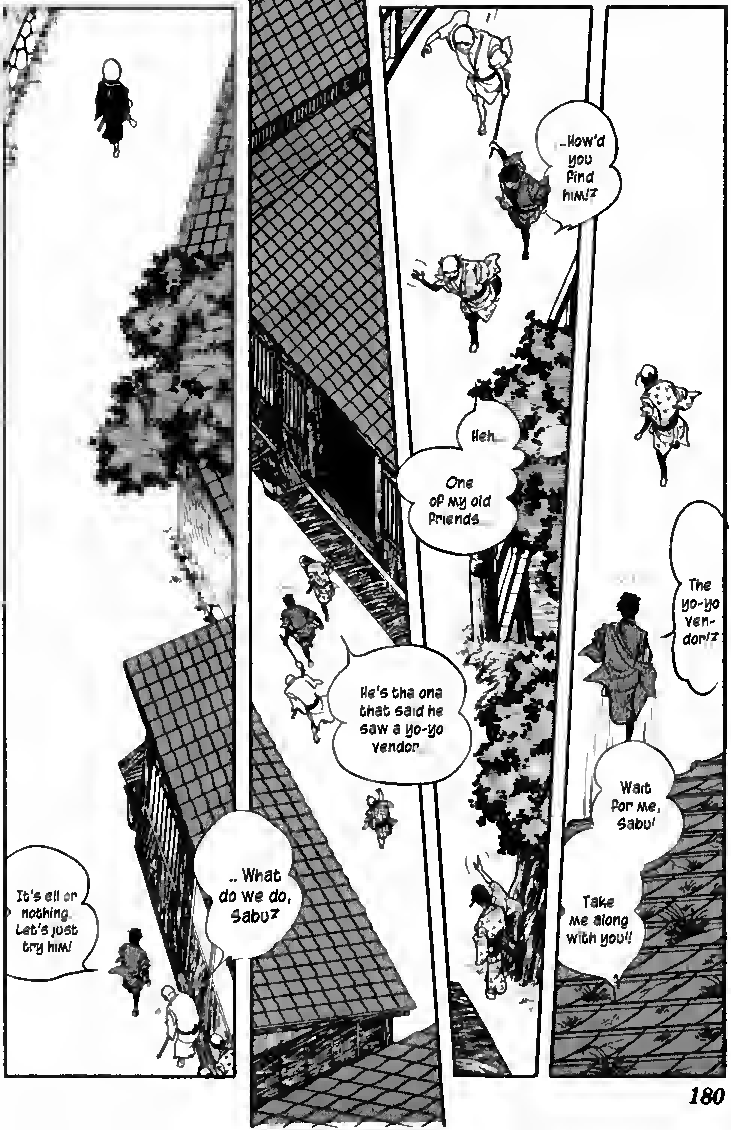
I was simply wondering whether or not you could actually kill someone with this.
Are you suddenly remembering your childhood...?
What are you doing with that..?
...No.
Huh—?
Just to Boss Lightning's house
Oh, to where?
I'm going out!
Send Ginpei and Buta-Matsu there when they get back

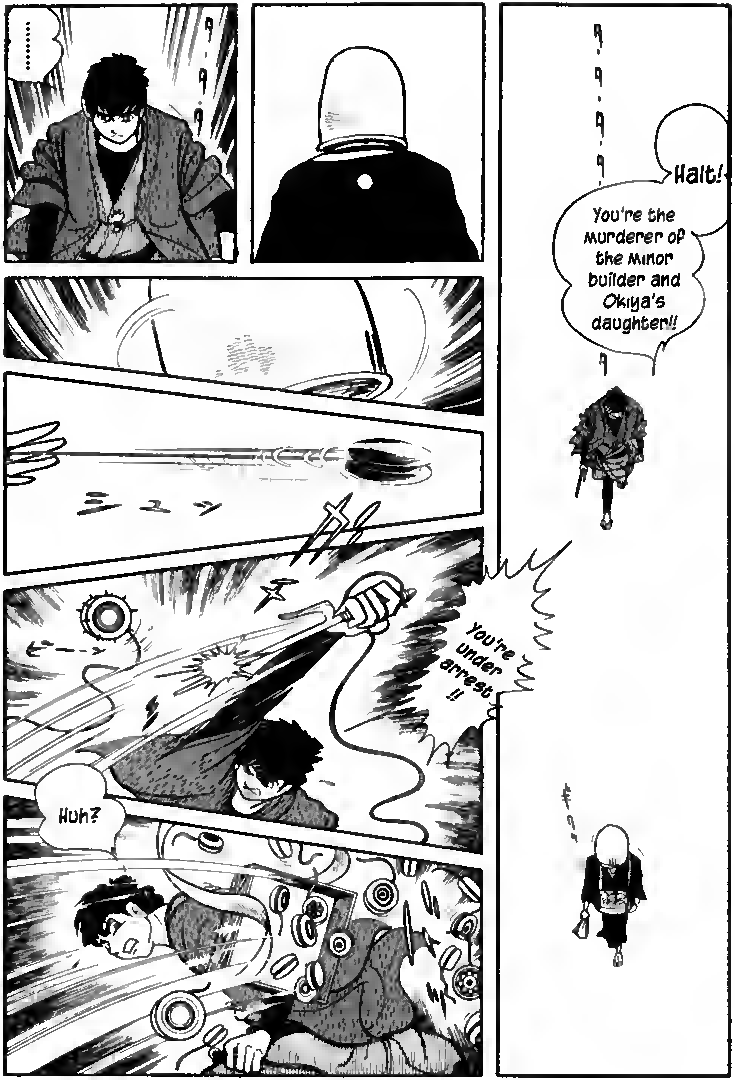
He had black clothes, a single short sword, white gauntlets and gaiters, and a begging priest's hood
Seemed like a ronin
Thanks, kids.
You gave us a lot of trouble because you didn't think this through!
You could've asked them yesterday...
Now, let's hurry.
Go tell your friends to keep an eye out for him during business!



Ahh!
Argh!
My lady!?
Ugh...


...No matter how I think about it... there's no connection...
I thought it might be a random slashing... but what's bizarre is that he didn't even touch their purse and goods...
...It could just be the mad blade of a bloody-thirsty ronin.
A bruise on the cheek.
This had to be the same murderer as the samurai from two days ago...
B-But...
Now then...
...Bro!
This time, he killed Okiyo's daughter and sales clerk.
What possible connection could there be between a chief Minor builder and a silk merchant!?
Ginpei!
We finally found him.
Hey.
He's near-by!


..How'd you find him!?
Heh.
One of my old friends.
The yo-yo vendor!?
He's the one that said he saw a yo-yo vendor.
Wait for me, Sabu!
Take me along with you!!
.. What do we do, Sabu?
It's all or nothing. Let's just try him!


……
Halt!
You're the murderer of the minor builder and Okiya's daughter!!
ミュン
ビー
You're under arrest!!
Huh?

Nngh!?
W-Who... are you!?

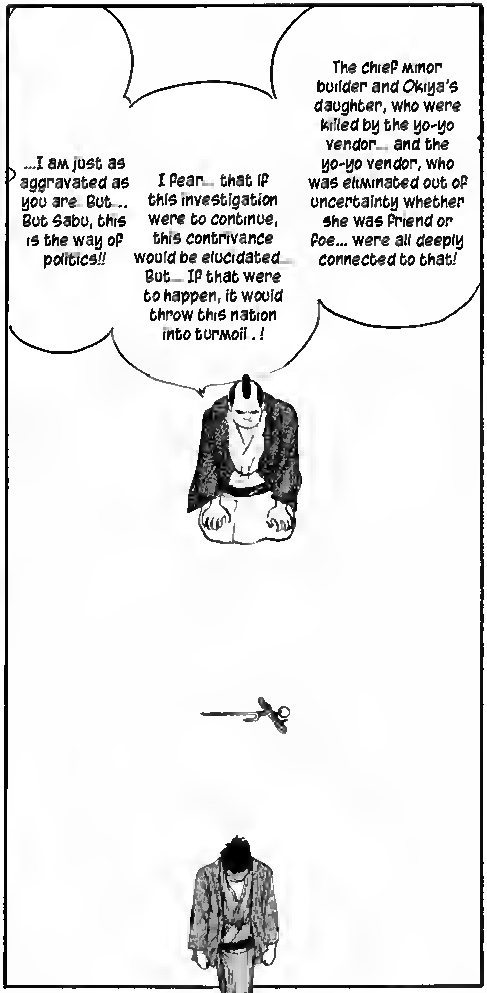
Ahhh...
...A woman !?
Huh!?

Eeek...!
Damn it all!!
By the way, Sir...
I was hoping you could tell me that woman's identity...
It's rigged so that these poisoned needles jut out when the string is extended.
...This was the murder weapon

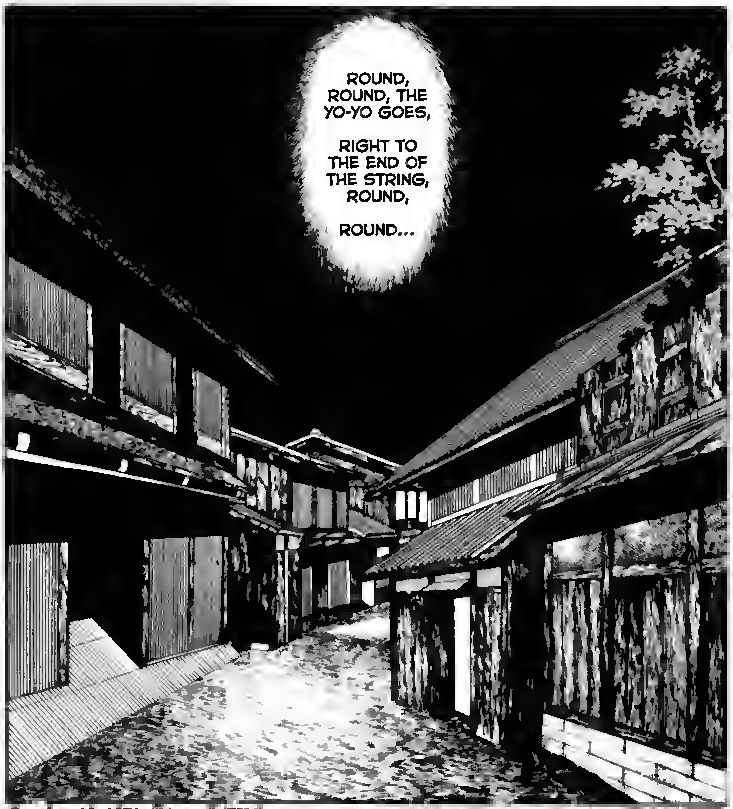
And a quite famous one, too...!
Your conjecture is right. She is a samurai's daughter
Ex-actly, Sabu
.....
Oh!?
Now this is getting quite interesting, Sir... So!?
I'm guessing that she was the daughter of a samurai clan...!?
Her agility and her swords-manship...
It's over...
This case is now closed!
B-But we still haven't...!!
W-
What did you say!?
...But this is our only choice!!

If anything, there are more of those!!
There are some things that are beyond the power of us town officials
...Please understand, Sabu!
!!
So you... were told this from your superiors ..!?
...So.
Then... Then for what purpose...
...d-do we even have these!?
No!!
T-That's a fraud!!
behind this case.
Sabu,
there is a secret quarrel between PiePs!
I-I must take my leave...
Sir!

...Something like that...
once happened to Father... I suppose that was..!


The chief minor builder and Okiya's daughter, who were killed by the yo-yo vendor... and the yo-yo vendor, who was eliminated out of uncertainty whether she was friend or foe... were all deeply connected to that!
...I am just as aggravated as you are. But... But Sabu, this is the way of politics!!
I fear... that if this investigation were to continue, this contrivance would be elucidated... But... If that were to happen, it would throw this nation into turmoil..!

A yo-yo.
The murder victims, that woman, Sir Tanabe... and you... and I are all yo-yos!!
Ichi, what... what the hell am I!?


ROUND, ROUND, THE YO-YO GOES,
RIGHT TO THE END OF THE STRING, ROUND,
ROUND...

佐武と市捕物控[11] 菖蒲

小学館文庫

石森章太郎
昭和13年1月25日、宮城県登米郡に生まれる。昭和30年「二級天使」でデビュー。昭和41年度講談社児童まんが賞、同43年度小学館漫画賞受賞。
代表作「サイボーグ009」「佐武と市捕物控」「ジュン」他。

(検印廃止)

昭和53年4月20日　初版第1刷発行

著　者　石森章太郎
©Shōtarō Ishimori 1978
発行者　相賀　徹夫
発行所　株式会社　小学館
東京都千代田区一ツ橋2－3－1
〔郵便番号〕101〔振替〕東京8－200
〔電話〕販売　東京(03)230－5739
編集　東京(03)230－5481
製作　東京(03)230－5333
印刷所　図書印刷株式会社

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佐武と市捕物控

SABU & ICHI

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